



Project WCP 2023

the 25th
World Congress of Philosophy

Tokyo, Japan



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The World Congress of Philosophy has long been providing a platform for philosophers from all over the world to discuss various philosophical issues related to our contemporary societies. Japanese philosophers have seriously contributed to the past Congresses as speakers, chairs, and participants, as well as the FISP committee members. Now we have a strong and earnest wish to host the Congress for the first time in Japan and to make further contributions as the organizers for the year 2023.

Japan has a long history of philosophy and religious thought based on Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shintoism, since the 6th century. After the mid-19th century, Western Philosophy was introduced and we integrated it into the Eastern thought. Our history demonstrates rich philosophical possibilities based on learning from other cultures. This is why we choose “World Philosophy” as the main theme for the WCP Tokyo.



The current world is entering an era of multi-polarization despite closer political, economic, social, and cultural connections with each other. In this era of globalization, people around the world tend to avoid solidarity, to stay away from each other, and to withdraw into a local egoism. The world needs an understanding of the differences and similarities between us, and opportunities for creating a new community and self while carrying on a deep dialogue.

The present state of philosophy also reflects this circumstance. Philosophy is segmentalized by traditions, and specialized areas are closed in by academics resorting to the use of jargon that is not shared by other specialists. At the same time, philosophy is separated from the general public and from other fields of knowledge. If we fail to assemble the traditional thoughts cultivated in various places and philosophical

activities pursued in various areas, such as literature, religion, art, and natural and social sciences, into a single, common ground, and if we avoid considering and examining them critically from mutual viewpoints through dialogue, the divisions of the world will deepen. For this reason, we need to secure a new kind of universality.

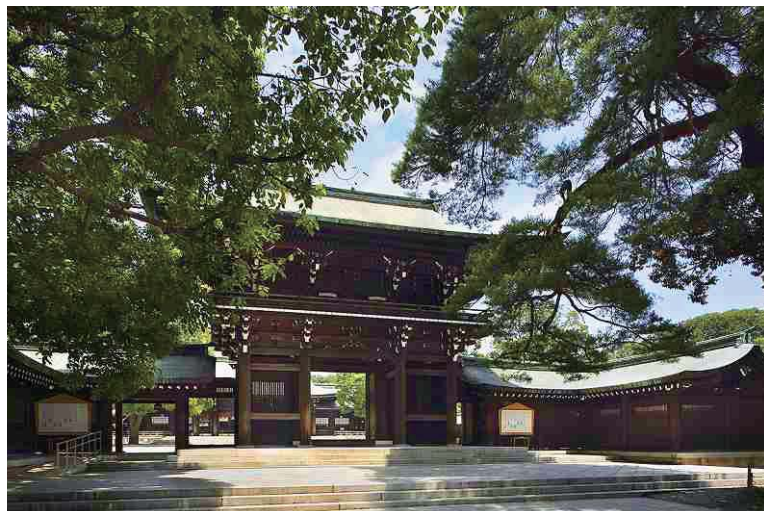
The term “World Philosophy” we use here neither refers to a single authoritative thought that forcibly unites differences by ignoring diversity, nor a simple showcase where various ideas are displayed without any mutual exchange. “World philosophy” is the name for a platform where any philosopher can join from all over the world, where each of us encounters various philosophical traditions, diverse ways of thinking,





and peculiar viewpoints different from our own. Here we can interactively examine our own ideas through dialogue, and eventually create new knowledge. “World Philosophy” is a place or a movement that generates chemical reactions to create new ways of thinking, new perspectives, new ideas, and new themes, by mutually examining and forging respective philosophy from truly diverse viewpoints. We believe that Japan, which maintains its traditions, can be a catalyst for such interactions in philosophy.

Japan is proud of the wide diversity of philosophical studies undertaken by its universities and academic societies. Both Western Philosophy, from ancient to contemporary, and Eastern Philosophies, namely Chinese, Indian, Islamic, and Japanese, have been extensively and intensively studied and taught over centuries. Also, Ethics (both theoretical and applied), Aesthetics, Art Theory, Philosophy of Science, and Religious Studies are flourishing. Collaborating with more than 40 academic societies of these various fields, the Japanese Federation of Philosophical Societies (JFPS) will be happy to organize the World Congress of Philosophy in 2023, in order to encourage philosophical dialogue, particularly among young scholars and students, all over the world. We will spare no effort to make this historic Congress a resounding success. We believe that our topic, “World Philosophy,” will push the boundaries of what WCP Congresses have achieved so far, adding value not only to the participants’ experience, but to philosophy as a whole. We look forward to welcoming you to WCP 2023 in Tokyo.



JFPS Invitation Letter

Dear National Delegates of the 24th World Congress of Philosophy,

As President of the Philosophical Association of Japan (PAJ), on behalf of the Japanese Federation of Philosophical Societies (JFPS), I would like to ask for your full support for our hosting in Tokyo the 25th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP 2023). Following on from the great success of WCP 2018, we are firmly determined to make our ideal of “World Philosophy” a reality.

I am also deeply confident that we would meet your high expectations in a more than satisfactory manner. For not only is Tokyo safe and easily accessible from most parts of the world, but also people and institutions here have a deeply sympathetic view towards philosophy and would heartily welcome the participants of the Congress.

We have many ideas that we expect to make the Congress exceptional:

- (1) We will provide sufficient support for accommodation and dietary requirements so that all delegates can maintain their daily habits, ensuring that all participants are comfortable no matter their gender or cultural background.
- (2) We will ensure to the best of our abilities that all facilities comply with universal design, and pledge to act in an environmentally conscious way.
- (3) We will introduce IT technology in user-friendly ways, especially to facilitate multi-lingual communication in a more efficient way for the benefit of all participants.

We promise to dedicate all of our resources and skills in order to provide an ideal agora where everyone present can enjoy a renewed and more developed “World Philosophy.”

Sincerely,

加藤 泰史 Yasushi Kato



President of the Philosophical Association of Japan

9 Good Reasons to Choose Tokyo as WCP 2023 Congress Destination

I. Seoul, Beijing, and Tokyo – Diversity in Asia

WCP was held outside of Europe and North America for the first time in Seoul. This year we gather in Beijing to discuss “Learning to be Human.” We want to welcome you next to Tokyo to engage in “World Philosophy” together. You will experience the wide diversity of Asian cultures first hand. Japan has a unique culture, such as tea ceremony and the aesthetics of “wabi-sabi,” which forms the basis for our life, art and thought in accordance with nature. For our part, philosophy in all its diversity will flourish even more in Japan by hosting WCP here for the first time.

II. 1500 years, 150 years, and Now – Tradition/Modern

Japan has both an incredible depth and tremendous breadth of philosophical traditions. Buddhist and Confucian philosophies entered Japan around 1500 years ago. They reacted with native thoughts, later Shintoism, to form original Japanese thinking. For 150 years Japanese thinkers have engaged with Western philosophical thought from Plato to Post-modern and Analytic Philosophy. It is our tradition to integrate different cultures and philosophies. Contemporary cultures and cutting-edge technologies encourage our thinking on living well in the 21st century. Learning from the past informs our present. In this way, we believe that Japan can be a catalyst for interactions and the integration of diverse traditions in philosophy.

III. Philosophical Dialogue – Toward a Pluralized World Philosophy

Our world and philosophies face divisions caused by the differing opinions of disparate political and cultural camps. This is why we sincerely wish to create a forum where people from every background can enjoy discussions focusing on the diversity of our cultures and philosophical disciplines. Our aim is to establish a new “World Philosophy,” which includes multiple traditions and provides a universal ground for philosophical dialogue. It reconsiders “world,” to include all aspects of our existence; from our daily lives to the universe itself. It renews the understanding of “human” in the light of virtual reality, robots, and AI. It liberates “philosophy” and opens it up to the public and the world, making this Congress a universal platform for all people engaged in philosophy.

IV. Contribution for FISP and WCP

The World Congress of Philosophy has long been providing a platform for philosophers from all over the world to discuss the philosophical issues of our contemporary societies. WCP has an exceptionally long history, stretching back to 1900. Previous Japanese members from JFPS have attended WCP Congress for a long period, and more than 100 Japanese participants attended to the Congress over several decades. In this way, Japanese philosophers have seriously contributed to the past Congresses as speakers, chairs, and participants, as well as the FISP committee members. Now we have a strong and earnest wish to host the Congress for the first time in Japan and to make further contributions as the organizers for the year 2023.

V. Cooperation Brings Diversity to World Philosophy

All six philosophical associations which make up the JFPS offer their strong support for hosting WCP 2023 in Japan. They will also come together in the spirit of cooperation to support the bid and holding of the event in every way possible. We anticipate that this comprehensive involvement of all corners of the philosophical community in Japan will lead to the success of the Congress.

The 6 JFPS Associations:

The Philosophical Association of Japan

The Japanese Society for Ethics

The Japanese Society for Aesthetics

Japanese Association for Religious Studies

The Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies

The Sinological Society of Japan

There are more than 40 societies in Japan, with most members involved in at least one of the above six societies. The strong interest in WCP and the close-knit nature of the philosophical community in Japan, means that we anticipate a high number of domestic participants.

VI. Strong Support for Young Researchers

If the WCP is held in Tokyo in 2023, the organizers will pledge up to 30,000,000 JPY (*272,727 USD / **230,769 EUR), which is promised as financial support from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which may be used to cover registration fees for student participants coming from abroad, to facilitate research. The scholarship initiative is intended to help young and emerging philosophers pursue their research, and in doing so support the next generation of philosophers.

*1 USD = 110 JPY, **1 EUR = 130 JPY

VII. Strong Support from National and Local Government

Strong support from the Japanese Government, academic associations, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is an essential part of holding the WCP 2023 project in Tokyo. Our solid support from multiple organizations consists of representatives from the public and academic sectors, such as the Science Council of Japan, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Japan National Tourism Organization. Especially, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is offering its strong financial support as detailed above, and in-kind support for WCP 2023.

VIII. Academic City – Tokyo

Tokyo is an attractive modern and post-modern city, combining the traditional Japanese culture with the newest technologies and pop culture. The University of Tokyo, founded in 1877, will happily host the WCP. We are planning to hold the Congress mainly in the Komaba campus (10 minutes by train from Shibuya, the city center), together with the Hongo Campus for some of the main events and ceremonies. Tokyo has over one hundred universities and colleges, most of which have philosophy departments or philosophy teachers. These universities will collaborate to host the Congress in Tokyo. Participants can enjoy the culture of Japan in Tokyo and can also visit other cities and areas from Tokyo, as the excellent transportation in and around Tokyo is truly exceptional.

IX. Universal Design, Eco-Consciousness and Multi-lingual Communication Aided by IT Technology

We will ensure to the best of our abilities that all facilities of the Congress comply with universal design. We also pledge to act in an environmentally conscious way so that the waste of electricity, water, paper and so on will be reduced to the strict minimum.

Supporting and facilitating multi-lingual communication has always been a challenge for the WCP. We are planning to develop various devices based on IT technology so that users of different languages will find their cross-language communication much more easy and comfortable.

The Philosophical Climate of Japan – Cherishing Diversity, Promoting Interactions and Welcoming New Outlooks

Owing to its long and characteristic history, which is to be set out a bit more fully below, Japan has established rich and firm cultural and social environments in which:

- (1) All kinds of diversity of opinions and thoughts are fairly cherished, in so far as they do not threaten but respect each other
- (2) Lively interactions between them are sufficiently supported and promoted
- (3) New outlooks concerning them are always welcomed and constantly created

Now, in view of a number of great challenges and difficulties that we as humans are facing; for example, intensifying political and economic opposition, fierce ethnic conflict, serious environmental problems caused by modern technology and so on, the need for a worldwide open forum is more and more urgent. In fact, a common platform is absolutely necessary where anyone from any country, of any gender, with any cultural background can advance her/his own opinions as freely as she/he wishes, listen to those of others generously and benevolently, and by virtue of critical mutual examinations establish better understanding and attain new insights.

WCP has always excellently succeeded in proving itself to be such a forum. We are certain that if Japan is approved to host the next WCP, another still more excellent success will surely be gained because of the philosophical climate of Japan as stated above. We believe Japan is a fantastic “agora” where anyone can do philosophy on her/his own to her/his fill.

The 1,500-Year Tradition: Coexistence and Original Fusions of Disparate Thoughts

Japan is, one might say, characteristic and exceptional in that for these 1,500 years, on one hand there has always been harmonious coexistence of very disparate philosophical thoughts, while on the other various original fusions of them have repeatedly occurred. Prior to the 6th century, Daoism had entered Japan and been influential, while several lines of native mythologies which were later to be integrated into Shintoism (the traditional religion of Japan) had also been invented and inherited. In the middle of the 6th century, first Confucianism and then Buddhism were introduced and thus the four figures that were to play important roles constantly in the ensuing history got together.

As an example of these unique fusions, we more or less could cite any one of the various eminent Buddhist philosophers in the late ancient and the Middle Ages, though probably Kukai (774-835) would be the most appropriate. After having been exposed to Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist and native thoughts in his youth, he went to China to learn Mikkyo (esoteric, tantric Buddhism) and then came back to Japan and devoted himself to an extremely wide range of religious, cultural and social activities. The whole of his religious-philosophical thoughts and ideas, at the center of which lies the harmonious cosmology of Mikkyo as interpreted and developed by him, is very comprehensive and abundant with creative fusions of heterogeneous elements. Through his hands, one could say, these elements are renewed and prompted to develop to their full potential. A typical instance is that of Mountain Buddhism, a specifically Japanese form of Buddhism that is characterized by ascetic practices in the deep mountains. Although its older form was a

rather rough mixture of traditional Japanese mountain worship, Daoism and Buddhism, after Kukai it gained great philosophical refinement and was to have a strong influence on the ensuing developments of Japanese religious thoughts in general.

Other interesting examples could be adduced from the Confucian philosophers and Kokugaku (study of Japanese classical literature) philosophers in the early modern ages. One of the most influential Confucian philosophers was Ogyu Sorai (1666-1728), the founder of Kobunjigaku (study of ancient rhetoric). He severely criticized the dominant exegesis of the day and, in a way not dissimilar with that of the modern Western school of Hermeneutics (which incidentally was to be founded as late as the latter half of the 18th century), stressed the need to go back and peruse the ancient Confucian texts with an eye completely free of prejudice. He put his words into action and advanced various original interpretations. On the other hand, Kokugaku was a new school of philological philosophy which specialized in Japanese ancient texts. Its most prominent scholar, Motoori Norinaga (1730-1801), brought into sharp focus what he took to be the inherent character of the thoughts and emotions of the ancient Japanese people and, in particular, identified “mono no aware” (literally, the pathos of things, more properly, empathy toward the transience of all things) as the most crucial notion. It is true he emphasized the need to exclude all alien notions such as those of Confucianism from the exegesis of the texts and in this sense was something of a precursor of later nationalism. Nonetheless, he was strongly influenced by Sorai and applied the latter’s insights in an effective and original manner: here we may see another case of creative fusion of disparate (seemingly opposite) thoughts.

The 150-Year Modern Development: Acceptance, Assimilation, and Original Contributions

With the advent of the Meiji Restoration in 1868, modern Western culture was rapidly imported to and readily accepted in Japan partly owing to the harmonious and generally broad-minded cultural climate of Japan at that time. As a memorable example of such acceptance and assimilation, we can take up the case of Raphael von Köber (1848-1923) and his students. In 1893, von Köber, a former student of the German philosopher Rudolf Eucken, came to Japan and began to teach philosophy at the University of Tokyo, where he was to hold the position until 1914. The range of subjects on which he lectured was very wide: from German philosophy, Greek and Medieval philosophy and Classical Studies, to Aesthetics and Art History. No doubt it partly resulted from the lack of human resources. However, it also shows that the acceptance and assimilation by his students of his knowledge was rapid and energetic, as well as what an excellent teacher of modern philosophical subjects von Köber was (this fact is attested to by many of his students in their writings, among whom is included the world-famous novelist Natsume Soseki [1867-1916]). The acceptance and assimilation could be said to be very productive not only in terms of professional philosophical studies but also in regard to broader Japanese cultural developments. In fact, throughout Soseki’s various novels and essays, while his exceptionally broad knowledge of the Western and Eastern literature is exhibited, one can also detect in it a firm background and serious interest in Western philosophy and, in particular, modern psychology. We might suppose that at least some part of Soseki’s interest and background can be traced back to what he learned from von Köber’s lectures.

From the interwar period on, although sporadically, one can catch sight of various more advanced reactions by Japanese philosophers: they somehow began to make their own contributions to the development of the modern philosophy. As one prominent example, we could name Nishida Kitaro (1870-1945), probably the most famous and most often addressed philosopher in the modern period of Japan.



On the one hand, Nishida was a first-rate scholar of Western philosophy. He had an extensive knowledge of the history of philosophy, Kant and German Idealism in general, above all Hegel. He was also knowledgeable about many contemporary philosophers, notably W. James, other Pragmatists, T. H. Green and other British Idealists. One of the central notions of Nishida's philosophy, which appeared as early as in his first major work, *Zen no Kenkyu* (*An Inquiry into the Good*, or *A Study of Good*) in 1911, is based on "junsui keiken," or "pure experience." While worked on by him uniquely, this notion is evidently inherited from neutral monists of his day and shows important affinity with the philosophy of James, Bergson, and so on.

On the other hand, Nishida was an heir to, or rather an innovator of Eastern philosophy, in particular, the philosophy of Zen Buddhism (Chan Buddhism). Backed by the abundant experiences of Zen practice, he vigorously sought a deeper, more penetrating conceptualization of the worldview of Zen Buddhism than previous thinkers. He thereby brought forth various original notions such as absolutely contradictory self-identity, active intuition, and the logic of Basho (place or topos).

One could see Nishida's philosophy as a brilliant example of organic synthesis of Western and Eastern philosophies. However, there is more than that. Behind these two, he seems to have opened up another fertile dimension of philosophy, which he named Mu (Nothingness). From inside of this, one commands an exceptionally good view of other dimensions, other philosophies and thus this dimension seems to be still worthy of much more investigation into the future.

Philosophy in Daily Life (1) – Philosophy Cafés

Numerous "philosophy cafés" are opened in Japan, especially in Tokyo, on a daily basis. A few of these cafés are sponsored by some members of JFPS. People of every age, every gender and from any background can freely get together to discuss various philosophical problems they are interested in; "Can we make ourselves understood by using language alone?" "Why do people often neglect to do a thing when they know it is both good for them and doable?" And so on.

Philosophy in Daily Life (2) – Popular Books and TV Programs on Philosophy

A number of readable books on philosophy have been written for non-specialists, in particular for children and adolescents, both by philosophers and by more general writers. Some of them are highly recommended and very widely read. They tell the readers in plain terms why there is a thing called "philosophy" and how we are to investigate it. Also, several TV programs on philosophy are broadcast on a weekly basis. Although often presented in the style of entertainment, they nonetheless focus on some important thought of various great philosophers and elucidate them interestingly and vividly.

The Idea of "World Philosophy" – In Search of Its Perfection

Let us go back to our point of departure. We are aiming to provide an appropriate platform for "World Philosophy" in Japan. We have not given, nor will give, any exact definition of "World Philosophy," but we feel this to be justified. On the one hand, giving a definition is, in particular on account of the comprehensiveness of the term "World," not as simple a task as it might seem. On the other, the intent with which we introduced the term "World Philosophy" should be fairly clear. By using this term, we attempt to call to attention several basic principles concerning the question: What are we required to do if we are to do philosophy in a rewarding way? Surely those principles are nothing new and probably have been recognized by everyone concerned with philosophy all along. For example, we have the following points in mind:

- (1) That we should respect all aspects of the diversity of the participants engaging in discussion/dialogue as sensitively as possible
- (2) That we should take up any theme proposed in the discussion/dialogue provided there is the faintest possibility of making sense of it
- (3) That we should exert our utmost efforts to understand others and to make ourselves understood by others

Needless to say, principles like these have been consistently respected and in general observed throughout all the WCP Congresses. At the same time, there have been unavoidable obstacles mainly due to technological immaturities, economic problems, and so on, which forced us to postpone perfection into the future. It is true that Japan is no exception and we should prepare ourselves for various difficulties of these kinds as well. However, in addition to the fortunate philosophical climate and a favorable cultural/social environment in Japan as set out above, we have the benefit of various new facilities and devices. For example, the machine translation system based on IT technology which is being developed, and various buildings and traffic systems conforming to universal design and so on. We believe these new facilities and devices might provide inspiration for the design of WCP into the future. Moreover, in Japan people and institutions are in general very sympathetic to philosophical activities. In this way, the next WCP, if it is to be held in Japan, will not only arrive remarkably close to perfection, but also present various new possibilities for future editions of the WCP to develop further.

Cultivating and Activating the Potential of Philosophy

Our idea of “World Philosophy” includes another, still more important element. We sincerely hope to contribute to the cultivation and activation of the potential that the present stage of philosophy in the world enjoys. We could explain the *raison d’être* of philosophy in various ways, but philosophy would be worthless if it did not help us to understand ourselves and the world, and how to live a good life. We promise we seek to establish a better understanding and a better way of life which every participant can agree on by hosting the next WCP in Japan.

Suggested Congress Theme

The world today has entered into a new era of multipolarization. Against the backdrop of such globalization, we have witnessed the emergence of new movements in humanities, such as World History, World Literature and World English. These movements have tried to free themselves from West-centrism, and instead attempted to take into account the diversity of human culture. Philosophy is no exception. Since the late 1980s, the term “World Philosophy” has been becoming more common mainly among Anglophones.

Before the advent of “World Philosophy,” such non-Western philosophical traditions, like Chinese scholarship (学: xué) or doctrine (教: jiào) and Indian *darśana* had been well known to the West. “World Philosophy” in the Anglophone world then considered such diverse regional philosophies as *African Philosophy*, *Polynesian Philosophy*, *Latin-American Philosophy* as well as Chinese and Indian ones. No doubt, it was an attempt to widen the potential of various philosophies around the world. But unfortunately, it seldom mentioned other attempts at constructing regional philosophies, such as *Myanmar Philosophy*, *Indonesian Philosophy*, *Philippine Philosophy* and *Vietnamese Philosophy*. Besides, there is the danger that rich philosophical resources of the minorities in such regions might be suppressed or neglected by presenting a certain philosophical trend as dominant in those regions. In the twenty-first century, we find it more urgent than ever that we establish a new version of “World Philosophy,” which encourages us to see the neglected areas and opens our eyes to plural and diverse aspects of philosophies around the world. This is our proposed theme, *Toward a Pluralized World Philosophy*.

At the same time, pluralized philosophies need a common ground engaging in philosophy. It must be a certain kind of universality, which probably is not the one that was taken for granted in the Western philosophy and sciences, but includes some different kinds of logic and ways of thinking. One of our aims is to create a new basis of universality, to be shared by philosophers of different backgrounds, languages, and traditions.

Eastern philosophers have learnt from our history, both the positive and negative sides of advocating non-Western philosophy. Based on Japanese and Asian perspectives, we dearly wish for the chance to discuss the possibilities and power of philosophy in the twenty-first century and into the future, with philosophers from all over the world, namely, Europe, Both Americas, Oceania, Africa, and Asia.

Project Components

Sponsors

- Science Council of Japan
- The University of Tokyo
- Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- The Japan World Exposition 1970 Commemorative Fund

Associations Supporting the WCP 2023 in Tokyo

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Japanese Association for Comparative Philosophy | • Japan Association for Bioethics |
| • Japan Association for Middle East Studies | • The Japanese Association for Philosophical and Ethical Researches in Medicine |
| • The Classical Society of Japan | • Japan Association of Religion and Ethics |
| • Philosophy of Science Society, Japan | • The Society of Ancient Philosophy |
| • Japan Association for Philosophy of Science | • Seminar on Greek Philosophy |
| • Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies | • Japanese Society for Neoplatonic Studies |
| • Japan Association for the Contemporary and Applied Philosophy | • The Merleau-Ponty Circle of Japan |
| • Société Franco-Japonaise de Philosophie | • History of Educational Thought Society |
| • Japanese Society for British Philosophy | • Japanese Society of Existential Thought |
| • Societas Leibnitiana Japonica | • Japanese Society for Clinical Phenomenology |
| • Spinoza Society of Japan | • The Japan Society for Comparative Study of Civilization |
| • Japanische Kant-Gesellschaft | • The Japan Society for Global System and Ethics |
| • Japanische Fichte-Gesellschaft | • The Hokkaido Philosophical Society |
| • Schelling-Gesellschaft Japan | • The Philosophical Society of Tohoku |
| • Japanische Hegel-Gesellschaft | • The Chubu Society of Philosophy |
| • Japan Schopenhauer-Association | • The Kansai Philosophical Association |
| • The Phenomenological Association of Japan | • The Kansai Ethical Society |
| • Heidegger-Forum in Japan | • Kyoto Association of Jewish Thought |
| • Japan Society of Phenomenology and Social Sciences | • The Philosophical Association of Western Japan |
| • Jaspers Society of Japan | • The Society of Philosophy |
| • International Association of Japanese Philosophy | |

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Congress Venue

The University of Tokyo – Komaba Campus

● Main Venue

A historic campus located close to bustling Shibuya, Komaba Campus has gorgeous natural surroundings, with both a forest and pond located on campus.

The University of Tokyo – Hongo Campus

● Opening Venue

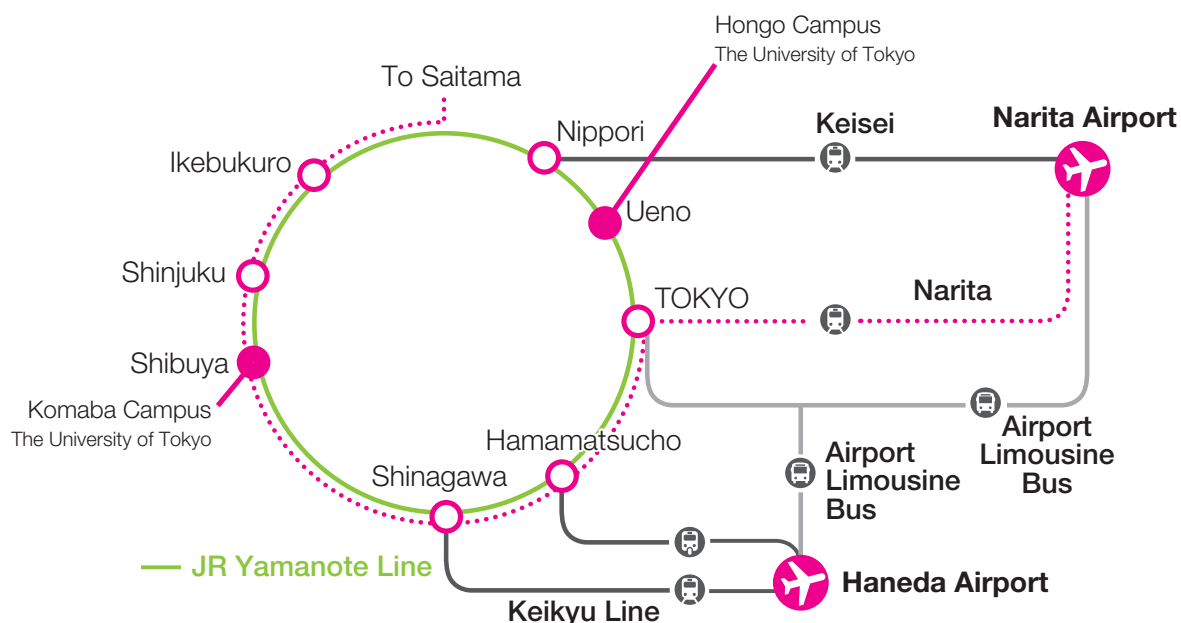
Home to the Philosophy Department at the University of Tokyo, Hongo Campus is engaged in cutting-edge research which the University of Tokyo is known for.



About the University of Tokyo

Founded in 1877, the University of Tokyo is the oldest and largest of Japan's national universities. It has close ties with many universities around the world, including in particular China, South Korea, and America. It runs 34 overseas offices, and is entered into 466 international exchange agreements, making the University of Tokyo the perfect institution to host a Congress with the inclusive theme of "World Philosophy."

Of the three main campuses of the University of Tokyo, the Hongo Campus and the Komaba Campus will both be used during WCP 2023. With over 27,000 students spread across the two campuses, we are confident that capacity will not be an issue during WCP 2023. The Komaba campus contains a library, museum and International Students' Support Center, fostering an international atmosphere at the campus. The nature of the venue, as a public university, means that the venue rental fee will be considerably lower than at private venues.



Accommodation

Tokyo offers some 98,000 hotel rooms, with this number set to increase to over 120,000 by 2023. There are rooms to suit every budget, from AirBnB, other cost-effective hostels and business hotels, to international brand hotels like the Four Seasons and Tokyo Marriot. Most hotels are equipped to ensure those with mobility requirements are able to use their facilities easily. Hotels in Tokyo are renowned for their top-level service no matter your budget.

New Style Hotels in Tokyo

One example of the many new hotels opening in Tokyo is the Henn-na Hotel chain, or “weird” Hotel chain. This chain’s hotels are at Haneda, Hamamatsucho, Ginza, Akasaka, Asakusabashi, Nishikasai, and Maihama Tokyo Bay, and are cutting-edge facilities based on the concept of “Good Health with AI.” This is because the hotel staff are assisted by humanoid male and female robots, the first of their kind to be implemented in the hotel chain. In this way, even hotels can offer unforgettable experiences unique to Tokyo.

Transportation

Great Access from around the World

Apart from its strong scientific community, Tokyo is easily accessible by air from around the world. Tokyo has two international airports. Narita, about an hour outside central Tokyo by train, and Haneda International Airport (Tokyo International Airport), only 15 minutes to central Tokyo by train. The metropolitan area of Tokyo, as Japan’s center of politics, economics and culture, offers a wide range of hotels of various classes, as well as a convenient and extensive public transportation network. With improvement in the transport links of Haneda Airport in the run-up to Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, access to and from the city center of Tokyo has become much more convenient by train and direct limousine bus service.

Getting around Tokyo

Tokyo is easy to navigate thanks to the city’s extensive train and metro network. The stops and lines are differentiated by colors and numbers, making it easy to get around, even as a first-time visitor. Buses and taxis also run widely in Tokyo and are clean, safe and reliable. A taxi fare runs from 410 JPY and up, and train fares run from 180 JPY and up.



▼ Flight Times to Tokyo

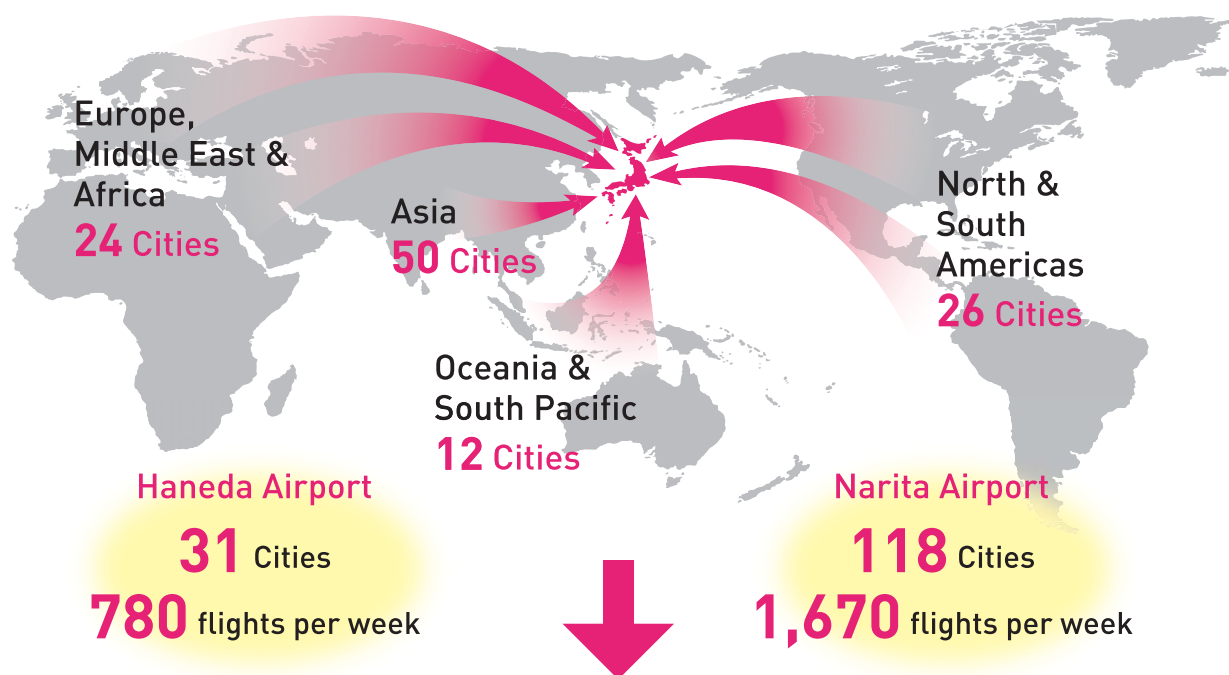
North America	(JST)	Flight Time	Asia and Oceania	(JST)	Flight Time
Chicago	(-15)	11:45	Bangkok	(-2)	6:20
Dallas	(-15)	11:35	Beijing	(-1)	3:35
Los Angeles	(-17)	9:45	Hong Kong	(-1)	4:45
New York	(-14)	12:45	Jakarta	(-2)	7:10
San Francisco	(-17)	9:30	Kuala Lumpur	(-1)	7:15
Vancouver	(-17)	8:30	Seoul	0	2:25
Europe	(JST)	Flight Time	Shanghai	(-1)	3:10
Amsterdam	(-8)	11:40	Singapore	(-1)	7:10
Frankfurt am Main	(-8)	12:10	Sydney	(+1)	9:20
London	(-9)	12:20	Taipei	(-1)	3:25
Milan	(-8)	12:45	Middle East	(JST)	Flight Time
Moscow	(-6)	10:10	Abu Dhabi	(-5)	11:35
Paris	(-8)	12:30	Dubai	(-5)	10:40

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WCP 2023

More than **2,000** international flights per week with flight capacity expanding towards the **2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games**



A total of 750,000 slots in 2017 is set to increase to **830,000** by 2020.

Japan currently has visa waiver agreements with 68 countries and regions, meaning that most delegates will not need a visa for WCP 2023. However, for those that do need a visa, or if anyone runs into difficulties, the local organizing committee will provide all the required documents to support their application.

List of Countries in Visa Waiver Agreement with Japan

(As of January 2018)

▼ Countries with Visa Waiver Agreements

Asia	North America	Europe	
Brunei (15 days)	Canada	Andorra	Liechtenstein*
Indonesia (15 days)	United States	Austria*	Lithuania
Malaysia*	Latin America / the Caribbean	Belgium	Luxembourg
Republic of Korea	Argentina	Bulgaria	Malta
Singapore	Bahamas	Croatia	Monaco
Thailand (15 days)	Barbados*	Cyprus	Netherlands
Hong Kong*	Chile	Czech Republic	Norway
Macao*	Costa Rica	Denmark	Poland
Taiwan*	Dominican Republic	Estonia	Portugal
Oceania	El Salvador	Finland	Romania
Australia	Guatemala	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	San Marino
New Zealand	Honduras	France	Serbia
Middle East	Mexico*	Germany*	Slovakia
Israel	Surinam	Greece	Slovenia
Turkey*	Uruguay	Hungary	Spain
United Arab Emirates*	Africa	Iceland	Sweden
-	Lesotho*	Ireland*	Switzerland*
-	Mauritius	Italy	United Kingdom*
-	Tunisia	Latvia	-

Period of Stay: The period of stay granted at the time of landing permission will be 15 days for Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand, 30 days for the United Arab Emirates and 90 days for all other countries and regions.

*For details, please refer to the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan:

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

Tokyo, a City Where Ancient and Modern Exist in Harmony

Tokyo is something of a contradiction; a modern metropolis, home of technology and innovation, while also being a hub for traditional Japanese culture. Tokyo offers a wide and eclectic mix of activities and exceptional cuisine to suit anyone's tastes.

With over 100 museums and art galleries, pop culture, scenic parks and delicious food, there is so much to see and experience in Tokyo. Tokyo is forever changing, so even if this is your first visit or your fifth, there's always something new to discover.

Fantastic Food

The Japanese quest for excellence extends to its kitchens, whether in five-star hotels or the local noodle shops. Tokyo has the most Michelin stars of any city in the world, at 234 (as of 2018). There are over 80,000 restaurants in the city, serving all sorts of Japanese and international cuisine. Washoku, or traditional Japanese food, is designated as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Property for its intrinsic cultural value for the whole of humanity. There is no better place in the world than Tokyo to enjoy these authentic Japanese delicacies. This variety will ensure all participants can maintain their individual dietary requirements and restrictions including halal, vegan and gluten free.



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WCP 2023

Sightseeing

Ueno Park, just 2km away from the Hongo Campus, is home to some of the most well-known museums and art galleries in Japan. Tokyo has over 400 years of history, beginning as "Edo" after Tokugawa Ieyasu established the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1603. The Imperial Palace became the home of the Japanese Emperor following the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Located nearby the historic Tokyo Station, the Imperial Palace is another must-see site during your time in Tokyo.

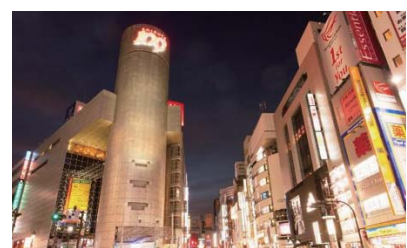


Explore Arts and Culture

Tokyo has dozens of museums spanning nearly every topic and interest with many offering glimpses into Japan's rich and diverse history. For the more contemporarily minded, there is an impressive number of smaller museums and galleries showcasing home grown artists. Museum fans with limited time should consider a visit to Ueno Park where a variety of first class museums, including the impressive Tokyo National Museum, the National Museum of Western Art, the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, the National Science Museum along with other smaller museums, are located close together.

Tokyo at Night

As dusk falls, Tokyo is transformed into a city of bright lights. Many observation decks in towers and tall buildings are opened till late, providing great vantage points for lovely night views. An evening stroll through the streets of Shinjuku, Ginza or Shibuya – Tokyo's best known nightlife districts – is a great way to see the city after dusk and enjoy



the myriad of neon lights. Visitors who want to “act like the locals” can patronize the Izakaya (local pubs) for a Japanese beer and yakitori (grilled chicken on a skewer) or sign up for their own private sing-athon party in a karaoke lounge. Guaranteed fun stories for the folks back home!



Shopping

Tokyo offers countless opportunities for visitors to shop for the beautiful and traditional products which Japan is famous for – exquisite green tea and traditional sweets, elegant lacquerware, glass etching works of true artisans and “Japan-original” designed textiles and fashions. Ginza is a top pick, with the flagship stores of international designers lining the streets, striking architecture and the oldest department store in Japan. Just a 15 minute train ride away is the bustling Shibuya area, famous for its iconic Scramble Crossing, great shops and the famous statue of the Akita-inu dog, Hachiko.

Safe, Clean and Accessible

Tokyo has a reputation for cleanliness, and it’s one of the things about the city that visitors notice right away. Despite being the largest metropolitan area in the world, the streets, trains and public spaces are exceptionally clean, making it a joy to sightsee around the city. Tokyo was also named Safest City in the World, according to the Safe Cities Index (Economist, 2017). The city has a notably low violent crime rate compared with other international cities, meaning delegates are free to explore the city with confidence, day or night. Tokyo is an accessible city for anyone who wants to explore it too. Last year Accessibility Guidelines were published by the Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

https://tokyo2020.org/en/organising-committee/accessibility/data/accessibility-guidelines_EN.pdf

Affordability

Tokyo is comparable in price to other large cities, and very affordable. The quality of goods and services in Tokyo is also generally to an exceptionally high standard. Although brand shopping in Tokyo is one of the perks of this trend-setting city, you can also pick up anything you may need at a ¥100 shop.

Restaurant Type	Meal	Price (USD/JPY)		Restaurant Type	Meal	Price (USD/JPY)	
Fast food	McDonald’s cheeseburger	1.18	130	Budget Italian	Saizeriya Margarita Pizza	3.9	430
	Subway BLT sandwich	3.81	420	Japanese	Sushiro Conveyor belt sushi	1	110
Japanese fast food	Yoshinoya Regular beef bowl	3.45	380	Japanese	Japanese pub (Izakaya) – 1/2 pint of beer, one small dish	5.45	600
	CoCoICHI Pork Curry (300g rice)	4.4	484		Glass of wine, main meal	13.63	2000 and up
Bagel	Salmon & Cream Cheese Bagel	4.01	442	Traditional Japanese	Set meal	5.72	1200 and up
Noodles	Rairaitei Simple Ramen	6.7	670				

Current as of June 2018, tax (8%) included.

Visiting Sites in Japan

Gateway to Japan

Tokyo has great transport connections and as such is the perfect launch-pad for exploring the rest of Japan.

Hakone: Historical Hot Spring Resort Area

Hakone, located just over an hour outside of Tokyo by train, originally sprung up as a post town. Today, this area is popular for its stunning autumn leaves and its hot spring onsen resorts. Take a boat ride on the idyllic Lake Ashi and enjoy the views of Mt. Fuji in the distance.

Nikko: World Heritage Site

(Two hours by bullet train and local train from Tokyo)

Nikko is famous for the shrine dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Visitors can appreciate how nature and traditional architecture have blended harmoniously here. Together with forest areas including the Cedar Avenue of Nikko, the world's longest tree-lined avenue, these have been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site and an Important Cultural Property.



Kyoto: Cultural and Academic Center

One of the most historical and beautiful places in Japan, Kyoto is on every tourist's bucket list. Located in the central part of Honshu Island, just over two hours from Tokyo by Nozomi bullet train, Kyoto is renowned as a center for Japanese traditional culture. Take a stroll along the famous "Philosopher's Walk," where the influential philosopher Kitaro Nishida (1870-1945) meditated daily in the early 20th century. Stop off to visit the Temple of the Silver Pavilion, before enjoying a vegetarian meal along Shijo Street, inspired by the ancient cuisine of Buddhist monks.

Nara: Ancient Capital

Nara, capital of the Nara Prefecture in Kansai region, is one of the most fascinating ancient cities in Japan. Just over three hours from Tokyo by bullet train and only 45 minutes from Kyoto, Nara, with its large temples and rambling parks populated with deer, is a must-see. This intriguing city was once the capital of Japan (710 – 784CE), and even today is regarded as a spiritual hub, with dozens of temples scattered across the city. Horyu-ji Temple, one of the oldest temples in Japan, is also one of the most famous. Horyu-ji was founded in 607 by Prince Shotoku, credited with the early promotion of Buddhism in Japan.

Kanawaza: Philosophers' City

Born in Ishikawa Prefecture, the above mentioned Kitaro Nishida, the founder of the Kyoto School of modern Japanese philosophy, began his academic career both as a student and teacher in Kanazawa. Daisetz Suzuki (1870-1966), a famous philosopher of Zen Buddhism and a good friend of Nishida, was also born in Kanazawa. Reachable in under three hours from Tokyo by bullet train, Kanazawa is one of the most historical cities in Japan and the jewel in the crown of Ishikawa Prefecture's sightseeing spots. Visit the Ishikawa Nishida Kitaro Museum of Philosophy (suburbs of Kanazawa), Daisetz Suzuki's Memorial Museum (city center) and explore Kanazawa's well-preserved castle town area. Alternatively, enjoy the Kenrokuen traditional garden, considered one of the most beautiful examples of landscaping in Japan.



July 13, 2018

Dear Delegate of the 24th World Congress of
Philosophy,



I am very pleased that the city of Tokyo has been shortlisted as a candidate city to host the World Congress of Philosophy to be held in 2023.

Philosophy plays an important role in Japan. It not only forms the foundation for higher education in Japan, but the fruits of academic philosophical research are also reflected in elementary and secondary education through school courses on morality and civics.

The World Congress of Philosophy aims at the promotion of philosophical inquiry and research at the highest levels and the diffusion of philosophical education. As such, the holding of the Congress in Japan would add momentum to reaffirming the educational role of philosophy, as well as be a golden opportunity for people engaged in philosophy, particularly young people, to widen their perspectives and gain a greater global awareness by allowing them to meet directly with world-class philosophers. This would in turn, I believe, also contribute to the further advancement of academic philosophical research.

Tokyo has an excellent record of hosting numerous large-scale international conferences up to now. It provides an optimum environment, the best Japan can offer, by having excellent access to any destination within and outside the city, an enormous accumulation of hotels suitable for international conferences, international-level sightseeing attractions, and other advantages. In addition, the University of Tokyo, the proposed site for the conference, is

a leader in Japan for academic research on philosophy, and I believe it will be an ideal setting for top-tier philosophers from around the world to meet together and discuss the leading issues of the day.

For all of the above-cited reasons, I am sure that Tokyo is one of the most suitable cities for hosting the 2023 World Congress on Philosophy.

The Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Japan in 2020, and the public and private sectors are united in preparing a range of venue environments for them, including the improvement of Tokyo's infrastructure. If you come to Tokyo after the Tokyo Games, I am certain that you and the other attendees, as well as the conference organizers, will without fail be enormously satisfied with your stay.

Should Tokyo be selected as the host city for the World Congress on Philosophy, I greatly look forward to welcoming you all to Japan.

Yours sincerely,



Yoshimasa Hayashi
Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

