

**PRESS RELEASE**October 1, 2024
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

**The 12th Western Pacific Naval Symposium Short Term Exchange Program
for Officers of the Next Generations (WPNS STEP)**

The JMSDF will hold the 12th Western Pacific Naval Symposium Short Term Exchange Program for Officers of the Next Generations (WPNS STEP) as described below.

1. Objective

- (1) To deepen mutual understanding and build relationships of trust among the participants in order to promote multilateral cooperation as leading naval officers-to-be in the near future
- (2) To provide the participants with opportunities to understand Japan's security environment, defense policy and defense buildup as well as Japan's history and culture

2. Period

October 8 to 17, 2024

October 8	: Opening ceremony, Orientation, Lectures, Reception
October 9	: Participants' presentations, Study Tour
October 10-11	: Participants' presentations, Cultural Tour
October 12	: Cultural Tour
October 13	: Day Off
October 14-15	: Group discussions
October 16	: Overall discussions, Closing ceremony
October 17	: Cultural Tour

3. Implementation responsibility

JMSDF Command and Staff College

(VADM EGAWA Hiroshi, President, JMSDF Command and Staff College)

4. Venue

- (1) Opening Ceremony, Lectures, Discussions, Closing Ceremony: JMSDF Command and Staff College
- (2) Study Tour and Cultural Tour: Around Kanto region

5. Participant and participating country

(1) Participant

Lieutenant Commander(O-4) or Lieutenant(O-3) who is currently a student of Naval War College or an equivalent naval officer

(2) Participating countries (28countries)

Australia
Kingdom of Bahrain
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Brunei Darussalam
Kingdom of Cambodia
Republic of Chile
People's Republic of China
Republic of Colombia
Republic of Djibouti
Republic of Fiji
Federal Republic of Germany
Republic of India
Republic of Indonesia
Italian Republic
Malaysia
Sultanate of Oman
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Independent State of Papua New Guinea
Republic of the Philippines
Republic of Korea
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Republic of Singapore
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Kingdom of Thailand
Kingdom of Tonga
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam