

**PRESS RELEASE**September 26, 2025
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

**The 13th Western Pacific Naval Symposium Short Term Exchange Program
for Officers of the Next Generations (WPNS STEP)**

The JMSDF will host the 13th Western Pacific Naval Symposium Short Term Exchange Program for Officers of the Next Generations (WPNS STEP) as described below.

1. Objective

- (1) To deepen understanding of Japan's security and defense policies, defense buildup, history and culture among next generation naval officers from Indo-Pacific nations
- (2) To promote mutual understanding among participants and build a foundation to advance multilateral cooperation as future naval leaders

2. Period

September 30 to October 7

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| September 30 | : Opening ceremony, Lectures |
| October 1 | : Participants' presentations |
| October 2 | : Participants' presentations, Study Tour |
| October 3 | : Cultural Tour |
| October 4 | : Day Off |
| October 5 | : Group discussions |
| October 6 | : Group discussions, Reception |
| October 7 | : Overall discussions, Closing ceremony |

3. Organization in charge

JMSDF Command and Staff College

(VADM ISHIMAKI Yoshiyasu, 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 Tokyo region

5. Participants and participating countries

(1) Participants

Lieutenant Commanders(O-4) or Lieutenants(O-3) who are currently students of respective naval war college or equivalent naval officers

(2) Participating countries (30countries)

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