



PRESS RELEASE

September 25, 2026
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

The 14th Western Pacific Naval Symposium Short Term Exchange Program for Officers of the Next Generations (WPNS STEP)

The JMSDF will host the 14th 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 29–October 6

September 29	: Opening ceremony, Lectures
September 30	: Participants' presentations
October 1	: Participants' presentations, Base Tour
October 2	: Cultural Tour
October 3	: Self-Study
October 4	: Self-Study
October 5	: Group discussions, Reception
October 6	: Overall discussions, Closing ceremony

3. Organization in Charge

JMSDF Command and Staff College

(VADM HABUCHI Hiroyuki, President, JMSDF Command and Staff College)

4. Venue

- (1) Opening Ceremony, Lectures, Discussions and Closing Ceremony: JMSDF Command and Staff College
- (2) Base Tour and Cultural Tour: Tokyo and Kanagawa

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 (23 countries)

Commonwealth of Australia
Kingdom of Cambodia
Canada
Republic of Chile
Republic of Djibouti
Republic of Fiji
French Republic
Federal Republic of Germany
Republic of India
Republic of Indonesia
Italian Republic
Republic of Korea
Malaysia
United Mexican States
New Zealand
Republic of the Philippines
Republic of Singapore
The Kingdom of Spain
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
The Kingdom of Thailand
The Kingdom of Tonga
United States of America
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam