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them. They like to work towards a decision rather than proceed from an assumption. Some cultures allow for more flexibility and spontaneity than others with a punctual and rigid approach. Please adjust your time schedule accordingly if you want to be successful in international business communication. Preferences for visual aids, graphics, and color schemes may vary from culture to culture, too. You will probably be working within the framework provided by corporate identity and design. However, if you can make adjustments to create a better visual experience which takes your audiences taste into account, feel free to do so. The Speaker just like different words mean the same thing in different languages, body language is by no means universal. This doesn't make international business communication any easier. For instance, a nod signifies yes in many countries, but no in parts of Bulgaria and Greece. In some cultures, it would be extremely rude to point at a person directly with one finger. Even beyond such single gestures, the concepts of eye-contact and personal space differ greatly. Some audiences value formality and credential more than others. Pay attention to how you dress yourself, how you greet your audience, and how you make the introductions if you want to come across as professional. Displays of emotion can backfire in some cultural contexts. In many Asian countries, showing your emotions openly is an impolite no-no, and there are even more cultures where restraint and understatement are held in high esteem, e.g. in large parts of Scandinavia. Always take this into consideration with regard to international business communications. The Audience As an international business communication pro, you should never forget that before audiences' general reaction to your presentation can be influenced by their cultural habits and assumptions. First of all, people from various cultures might have different expectations about the desired outcome of a business meeting. Is it an opportunity to reach a consensus? Will there be an argument about the pros and cons of a proposal before your audience? All these unspoken expectations (and many more) are possible. Moreover, there are quite a few ways of showing attention and interest. For example, some Japanese people may listen attentively while putting their heads upon their arms and closing their eyes. What is an acceptable manner of expressing concentration in Japan is interpreted as taking a nap or drifting off in other contexts. Participation Last but certainly not least, audience participation and debate culture vary widely in international business communication. In some countries, the members of the audience will quickly become embarrassed or insecure if you single them out for involvement or directly ask them for their opinion. Others, though, will appreciate every opportunity to express their point of view as bluntly and straightforwardly as possible, as this is seen as normal feedback in their business context. This doesn't automatically mean that they are trying to tear you down. However, if you are not versed in international business communication, such incidents are likely to baffle you. You might be inclined to think that someone is trying to insult you personally. If you don't neglect your cross-cultural training, though, you will be well prepared for all aspects of international business communication. You will thus improve your presentation or even your management skills. The education system in Japan is one of the best in the world. When comparing educational quality across the globe, the island country consistently ranks in the Top 5, often claiming the first or second spot. This feat is thanks in large part to the school systems emphasis on developing its pupils as whole people, rather than being able to simply recite facts and figures. Experts may be surprised to find that schools, like jobs, often play a more central role in Japanese society than is found throughout other parts of the world. However, while this does create an innovative and high advanced population, there is also a downside. In addition to having one of the best education systems in the world, Japan also holds the sad title for one of the highest suicide rates among students 14-19, due in large part to academic success pressures. Education Facts in Japan The Japanese school system has a heavy emphasis on teaching its pupils good morals and ethics. In fact, morals and ethics are actually taught as a course subject with a textbook and specific class time. Students do not take any exams until they are ten years old (Grade 5). Instead, from Grade 15 they just have small tests. In order to understand and respect the Japanese culture, students take formal courses on Shodo (Japanese calligraphy) and haiku during their schooling. Public schools do not employ janitors or custodians. Instead, students are broken up into small teams and tasked with cleaning the school including the kitchens and bathrooms. It is most common for students to have lunch in their classroom with their teacher. This is meant to build a strong rapport between the students and teacher. What is the Education System Like in Japan? Compulsory schooling in Japan lasts for nine years from when the child is six years old until they are about 15. This covers Grades 1-9, or, in westernized terms, elementary and middle school. High school/upper secondary school is not compulsory in Japan, but nearly 99% of students attend. The most common subjects for students to study are: Japanese language; mathematics; science; social studies; music; crafts; physical education; home economics (such as sewing and cooking). In addition to traditional Japanese, students also learn how to write in kana, which are the phonetic characters derived from kanji. A strong emphasis is made throughout Japanese schooling to create whole people. This is done by special emphasis on students learning to respect nature, animals, and people. They are also taught how to be compassionate, generous, and empathetic, as well as qualities like self-control and justice. What are the School Systems like in Japan? Education is broken up into three main schooling systems: Elementary school: Grade 1-6 Middle school/secondary school: Grade 7-9 High school/upper secondary school: Grade 10-12 When students enter lower and upper secondary schools, their grade level starts back at one. For example, you may hear a 12-year-old student referred to as being in Grade 1 of middle school or a 15-year-old being in Grade 1 of high school. The school system between public and private institutions is largely the same. As it is in many countries, one of the main differences between public and private schools is cost: public schools require a few fees, while private schools are nearly five times more expensive. With public schools, tuition is free, but parents will need to pay for materials such as uniforms, backpacks, and specified writing utensils. Private schools, on the other hand, cost an average 2,000,000 JPY (18,000 USD) per student just for tuition alone. Public school classes are also taught in Japanese, while students attending private schools have the option of taking courses in English. What is the School Year in Japan? The school year in Japan is year-round. It starts at the beginning of April and goes until late March. Students start school at age six. The school week spans from Monday to Friday, but many schools also offer optional classes on Saturdays. Because the pressure to achieve academically is so important in Japan, many Japanese students attend Saturday classes, which give the impression that the school week is six days long. Schools will consist of two or three terms. They are separated by short breaks in spring and winter, and a longer break in the summer. What are the School Hours in Japan? School hours are generally from about 8:00-8:30 until 15:00/16:00 depending on the school and students age. However, Japanese schools offer many extracurricular classes, clubs, and workshops outside of these standard hours. Therefore, it is common to see children returning home from school in the evening. In some prefectures, especially in rural areas, the official start of school starts before 8:00 with a group walk to class. Children are given specific times in which their teacher-led group will walk by their home and pick them up (times such as 7:39 or 7:51). Times are allocated based on where the students live in relation to the school. School Ages in Japan Compulsory schooling begins in elementary school. However, many students enroll in nursery/kindergarten/preschool beforehand. Yochien (Nursery school) 36 years old Shogakkō (Elementary school) 6-12 years old Daigaku () Middle school 12-15 years old Dōjō () High school 15-18 years old Daigaku () University 18+ years old Semmōgakkō () Vocational school 18+ years old The Grading Scale in Japan Grading systems in Japan may vary slightly from school to school, but on average this is the grading scale your student should see: A+90-100sh ()/outstandingA80-89y ()/superiorB70ry ()/goodC60-69k ()/fairD50-59h ()/approvedF0-59fuk ()/bad or fail Be advised that receiving an A+ is rare. Exams One infamous aspect of Japanese schooling is its exams and the extreme importance placed upon them. For some, the pressure of these exams can start before they turn one year old with an entrance exam for daycares and kindergartens (read more in the section below). However, it is the exams to get into secondary schools and universities that are the most strenuous. Students throughout the country even call these tests shiken (jigoku), which translates to exam hell. Many Japanese students enroll in afterschool workshops to help them study for these exams and it is not uncommon to see young children walking home late at night after finishing one of these courses. Parents also enroll students in special cram schools just to prepare for these exams. Students begin studying for these exams anywhere from one to two years in advance. The outcome of these exams not only determine a student's academic career but can also heavily influence their job prospects. Unfortunately, the pass rate for these exams is just 50-70%. Students may retake the exam, but only in the following year. However, for many students, not passing the exam means they are unable to attend the university of their choice, which can be devastating in such an academically minded culture. The pressure to excel in these exams, combined with their difficulty, has sadly led to Japan's shockingly high suicide rate among students 1419. Japan has taken strides in recent years to curb this trend. While the number of suicides has decreased slightly, partially due to the foreign presence in the market and less of a need to score so highly on the exams, it is still a tragic factor of the country's education system. The concepts of daycare, preschool, and kindergarten are largely western-based, but recent years have seen a rise in their popularity in Japan. Neither preschool, nor kindergarten is mandatory, but over 85% of students enroll in at least two years of kindergarten before compulsory primary schooling begins. How do Daycare, Preschool, and Kindergarten Work in Japan? To begin understanding how daycare, preschool, and kindergarten work in Japan, it is important to know the different terms and their English equivalent. Yochien (nursery, preschool, kindergarten) Hoiku (daycare) Hoikujo (nursery/daycare school) Ninkō (authorized daycare facility) Mu-ninika ()/ninkai gai (unauthorized daycare facility) Nishinoya (government-certified daycare) is essential to bear in mind when sifting through childcare options in Japan that the English terms daycare and nursery are interchangeable, as are kindergarten and preschool. There is no such thing as junior or senior kindergarten. Instead, there is just the Japanese equivalent of preschool and kindergarten. Parents can enroll their children in whichever they see fit. The educational approach of daycare focuses on play and socializing children with each other. Yochien/kindergartens focus more on developing a child's motor skills, mental reasoning, social and emotional development, as well as friendship and responsibility. It is also worth noting that a downside to daycares in Japan is that hours may be limited to just four hours a day, and children are not permitted in if they are sick. However, kindergartens and preschools can have extended hours almost until 19:00 and they will allow sick kids What Age Do Kids Start Kindergarten or Nursery? Children can enroll in hoiku/daycare before they turn one year old. They can stay in daycare until they are five. The word hoiku can also be used to refer to a kindergarten. Children can enroll in a hoiku at three years of age. Things to Know A very traditional society, Japan has seen a recent shortage of daycare facilities ever since there has been a spike in working mothers. Therefore, competition to get into daycare is stiff. It involves an entrance exam (identifying shapes and colors) as well as a points-based system to identify those with the greatest need. Points differ from school to school, but here is a look at an example of need-based daycare points: A parent applying for daycare while on maternity leave: +10 points A parent working 7+ hours a day for 16+ days per month: +40 points A parent working 7+ hours a day for 20+ days per month: +50 points Living with grandparents (whether they are unemployed or unemployed): -6 points Not a resident of the ward in which you are applying: -10 points Daycare and Kindergarten Fees The school cost for daycares and kindergartens in Japan will fluctuate depending on where you live. On average, public daycare is about 10,000 JPY (90 USD) per month, while a private daycare is between 40,000-60,000 JPY (37,055 USD). Kindergartens and preschools range anywhere from 20,000,000 JPY (18,070 USD). Your income will also be considered when calculating your tuition. Your chosen institution will also give you a list of items you must purchase for your children such as uniforms, specific types of bags/backpacks, bento boxes, etc. If you are moving to Japan with children, you will want to know how to find the best primary and secondary schools for your students. However, in Japan, the prefecture and ward in which you live largely determine the school your student can attend. If you intend to enroll your child in a Japanese public school, it is a good idea to research the schools associated with specific wards before officially settling in. However, keep in mind that academic standards throughout the country are extremely high, and children should do well no matter which school they attend. One thing you should be aware of is that it is cultural for a school community to accept you as family. Be prepared to be asked to serve on a committee at some point. You will also have regular contact with your child's teacher. Most teachers send students home with a communication notebook, which serves as a tool for parents and teachers to communicate. Home visits by teachers to talk about a student's progress are also not unheard of. Do not be diss by the state of Japanese school buildings. While the learning inside is of extremely high caliber, Japan is often criticized for its less than glamorous, almost derelict, looking buildings. The outside will be stark and bare, and having a nice yard is rare. The insides will look worn and dirty. This is partially due to the Japanese school policy of not hiring cleaning staff and instead relying on students for the upkeep of the property. Some Top Primary and Secondary Schools in Japan Tokyo Metropolitan Kokusai High School Tokyo Metropolitan Asuka High School Nanzan Elementary School Nobe Elementary School Class sizes in Japan are large. The average is about 38 students per class. Each class will have an assigned homeroom teacher. They will receive instruction in their various subjects by different teachers, although it will be the teachers who move from classroom to classroom instead of the students. Instruction is typically in the form of lectures. Informational technology is gaining in popularity in Japanese classrooms, so do not be surprised if your school requires its students to have a laptop or tablet. If your child goes to public school in Japan, they will receive instruction in Japanese. However, in recent years the Japanese government has mandated that English be introduced at the primary school level so that pupils can start to retain the language more easily. Primary School (Elementary School) In primary school, students start learning basic core subjects such as mathematics, social studies, homemaking, and science. They will also learn haiku and Shodo (Japanese calligraphy) as a means to appreciate Japanese culture. In addition, a strong emphasis is placed on morality and community building, so much so that formal courses are given on the subject. Most elementary school students participate in after school clubs or Saturday activities. Secondary School (High School) Secondary school is split into lower and upper secondary school. Lower secondary school covers Grades 7-9; upper secondary school covers Grades 10-12. When a student starts lower or secondary school, they are considered starting at Grade 1. For example, a student entering a lower secondary school at Grade 7 is actually called a Grade 1 lower secondary/junior high school student. Upper secondary school is voluntary although nearly 99% of the student population attends. Students will study the same subjects that they did in primary school. Teachings will grow more intense with each grade level. Only foreign language courses may remain slightly less intense, although the Japanese government is gradually introducing a more intense study of English. In secondary school, students will also begin more intense studies for their exit exams. It is not unheard of for students to study for these exams for multiple years leading up to the tests. School Cost/Tuition for public primary and secondary schools is free, even for foreign students. However, you will be required to cover some costs for lunches, school materials, uniforms, and contributions to the PTA. Your school should provide a detailed list of everything that your student needs. On the whole, students carry identical materials and wear the same outfit as there is less of a chance of class or status division. School items you will be required to buy include backpacks, school hat (boushi), inside shoes, sports uniform, tote bag, etc. All of these extra costs should run about 4,000,000 JPY (35,55 USD) per year. Requirements to Enroll Foreign students in Japan have the same rights as native students. To enroll your student, you will need to register your address with your local municipal card. Once you have done this, you will be assigned a specific school in your municipality. The requirements your child must meet are: appropriate age for the school year to which they are enrolling; enrollment application form; transcripts from previous school; residence card; students residence card; transcripts from previous school; enrollment application form; residence card. Although easily the most expensive schooling option in Japan, some expat parents may want to look into the best international schools for their children so that they receive a more global education or do not fall behind the standards of their home country. Native Japanese families are also turning to international education more and more as the global education opens kids future abilities to study and work abroad. International schools also do not come with the same academic pressure or exam hell that is seen in the traditional Japanese education system. Schools in Japan for International Students Given Japan's ever-increasing foreign population, it is now easy to find international schools in nearly every prefecture throughout the country. In total there are about 40 accredited international schools throughout Japan. If you are unsure whether the school you are looking at is accredited or not, you can use the database by the Japan Council of International Schools. Unsurprisingly, expats will find the greatest amount of international schools in large cities such as Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kobe. The cities with fewer options are Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Sendai, and Sapporo. The Benefits of International Schools in Japan One benefit of an international school is the language. International schools in Japan can largely be divided into two categories: American and British schools. 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What is the basis of contemporary international human rights law. What document is considered the foundation of international human rights law. What is the difference between a declaration and a convention in international human rights law. What is the primary purpose of international human rights law. What is an international human rights lawyer. What document is considered the cornerstone of international human rights law. 2 what is child's rights based on international human right law. What is the main provision of the international human rights law. What is the relationship between human rights and international law. What is the role of international human rights law in transformational constitutionalism. What is child's rights based on international human right law. What is international human rights law pdf. What is the foundation of international human rights law. What is the importance of the other international treaty sources of human rights law. What is the difference between international humanitarian law and human rights law.

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