

**Report on Waikato Secondary Schools' NCEA Japanese Workshop  
at the University of Waikato, 2010**

The Waikato Secondary Schools' NCEA Japanese Workshop was held on the 8th of June at the University of Waikato. This one-day workshop, which focused on the preparation of one of the internal Achievement Standards, was a unique venture in that it was organized by the secondary school Japanese language teachers in the Waikato with the support of the University of Waikato.

The workshop started in a lecture theatre with over 180 students, with a warm welcome by Dr Akiko Nayakama, Japanese Section, Department of Humanities, the University of Waikato. This was followed with a keynote speech by Ms Paula Wilson, who talked about her encounter with the Japanese language and culture as a young diplomat who worked at the Embassy of New Zealand in Tokyo.

Students were divided into small groups and had three intensive sessions. The programme catered for three levels (NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3), in which they worked together with students from other secondary schools on writing a speech in Japanese. After lunch, they presented the speech they had written and practiced in the morning. They learnt the process of speech draft writing; they gained confidence in presenting a speech in Japanese, and it prepared them for the real NCEA assessment through this workshop.

The final session included an informative lecture on the benefits of learning another language based on the recent research findings by Ms Naomi Collins, Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education. The workshop finished with feedback by Ms Junko Tomooka, Japanese National Advisor at International Languages Aotearoa New Zealand, and a prize draw and concluding remarks by Dr Nakayama.

The evaluation from the students was very positive. The summary of the evaluation revealed that students found their using and exposure to Japanese throughout the day beneficial, and that they enjoyed interacting with students from other schools through learning Japanese. It was also indicated that they wished to have more time, or more opportunities to interact with native speakers of Japanese. This will be considered when planning for the anticipated workshop for 2011.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education for their valued support and donating resources for this workshop.