



TOKYO, 22 July 2011

Dear JET Participant,

On behalf of my Embassy colleagues as well, please accept a warm welcome in advance of your upcoming assignment as a Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme participant. Since its inception, the JET Programme has been a cornerstone of the people-to-people exchanges that contribute to the success of the Canada-Japan bilateral relationship, and your participation, especially in the wake of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, is one important way of demonstrating Canada's support for the Japanese people. I am grateful for your commitment to do so.

As you contemplate your departure, you may have some concerns about the situation here in Japan. In response, permit me to provide you with some information and an update.

I am happy to report that Japan has for the most part returned to a "new normal" in all areas except for those most severely affected by the tsunami and nuclear disasters. The most visible lingering effects of March 11 are energy conservation efforts, ranging from reduced usage of air conditioning to altered work schedules in some companies to take advantage of off-peak electricity demand hours. These efforts have been largely successful, as there has been no need to impose power disruptions or mandatory cuts due to lack of supply.

Japan will always remain a seismically active country, but aftershocks associated with the March 11 earthquake have diminished in both magnitude and frequency.

Based on our own measurements taken through detection equipment installed at the Embassy and readings from the Japanese Government and international sources, environmental radiation readings in Tokyo and all other areas except those in the immediate vicinity of the Fukushima nuclear plant have fallen into the normal range. To put this into perspective, the most recent readings suggest an annual dose well under the average annual dose received from natural background radiation in Canada. While the situation at the Fukushima nuclear plant remains serious, our own Canadian experts have concluded, in consultation with other experts in like-minded countries, that the current and future radiation risk to Canadians located outside of the vicinity of the Fukushima nuclear plant is far below a level that would warrant any emergency action or intervention.

Japanese authorities have established monitoring programs to identify food and water with increased levels of radioactive contamination. Recent tests measure radioactivity levels that are either undetectable or well below the very strict Japanese regulation values. While there have been cases of certain products such as green tea or beef with elevated levels of radiation being shipped to market, the reaction of Japanese authorities has been swift in removing these products from the food chain and taking effective countermeasures.

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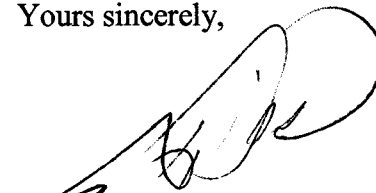
All of the above has led to the decision to remove Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada's previously heightened travel warning for Canadians wishing to come to Japan. We now simply advise Canadians to exercise normal security precautions for travel to Japan that does not include visits to the areas of Northern Honshu that were directly affected, and to the Fukushima nuclear power plant and surrounding areas. For up-to-date travel advisories for Canadians, please visit: <http://voyage.gc.ca/>.

I highly recommend that you sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad service, also accessible through the above website. This service is provided so the Government of Canada can contact and assist you in an emergency in a foreign country, such as a natural disaster or civil unrest, or inform you of a family emergency in Canada.

I hope the above information is useful to you as you plan for your departure. Again, your decision to come to Japan at this time is a tremendously important gesture of support, and I am confident that the experiences waiting for you here while on the JET Programme will be invaluable.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, or the Japanese Embassy and Consulates in Canada. Congratulations on your acceptance to the JET Programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan T. Fried', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Jonathan T. Fried  
Ambassador