

## ABSTRACT

### The Development of Japanese Textbooks for learners in Senior Secondary Schools

As a result of the rapid increase in the number of learners of Japanese in overseas schools in the recent years needs for the development of suitable materials and for the training of Japanese language teachers are being expressed in a number of such areas. It is in an effort to address the former that the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute has set out to develop a series of textbooks for learners of Japanese at the senior secondary level in countries where kanji are not being used.

The following general goals are set for the program in the series: 1) to facilitate the learners' acquisition of basic communicative competencies necessary to carry out transactions in daily life and to maintain social relationships; 2) to enable learners to acquire skills and knowledge necessary to conduct further studies of the language. It is also designed to enhance the learners' understanding and appreciation of the Japanese culture as well as to help them learn how to learn the language.

The series comprises 4 volumes. Each volume contains material to be covered in approximately 100 hours.

The units in the textbook are organized thematically, with the principal themes being repeated over 2 to 3 levels, allowing for spiral progression. Included are such themes as oneself and others, daily life, leisure, shopping, and eating and drinking. The unit is built around communication activities, which set the objectives or the projected outcomes for the unit, and at the same time which provide the basis for the sets of learning activities designed to lead to these outcomes.