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July 6, 2012  
AEON 1% Club

## **Aeon hosts Japan-China High School Student Exchange Program over eight days from July 11 (Wed), 2012**

100 Chinese high school students are invited to Japan in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations

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From July 11 (Wed) to 18 (Wed), 2012, Aeon will host the Japan-China High School Student Exchange Program over eight days. Under the program, Aeon will invite 100 high school students from the People's Republic of China (hereafter, "China") and provide them with opportunities to interact with Japanese high school students.

The Aeon 1% Club, whose membership is comprised of major Aeon Group companies, is engaged in activities to promote cultural/human exchange and foster human resources. As part of its activities, the Aeon 1% Club has been inviting Chinese high school students to Japan since 1996 to provide them with opportunities to interact with their Japanese counterparts with the aim of reaffirming bonds of friendship established between the two countries. In 2009, this initiative developed into a reciprocal program named "Japan-China High School Exchange Program" under which both Chinese and Japanese high school students were offered the opportunity to visit each other's country with the aim of strengthening bonds with each other as the younger generation, thereby contributing to fostering friendship and a relationship of trust between the two countries. A total of 285 students from Japan and China have participated in the Aeon 1% Club's exchange program so far.

This year, which marks the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the program will be further expanded to a record 100 students from each country for the purpose of reinforcing the friendly ties that currently exist between the two countries. High school students invited from Beijing, Qingdao, and Tianjin will take part in Japanese high school classes, experience homestays with Japanese families, and enjoy cultural and historical learning opportunities to acquire a deeper understanding of Japan. Japanese students in turn will visit China in October 2012.

Aeon is determined to implement various initiatives to serve as a bridge between Japan and China at the private-sector level.

### **Japan-China High School Student Exchange Program**

1. Period: July 11 (Wed) to 18 (Wed)
2. Participants: 100 Chinese high school students (from Beijing, Qingdao, Tianjin)  
100 Japanese high school students
3. Program outline:
  - July 11 (Wed): Tour of AEON FOOD SUPPLY Co., Ltd.  
Tour of TOPVALU Exhibition
  - July 12 (Thu): Courtesy visit to the Prime Minister's Office; High school class participation;  
Welcome reception (at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan)
  - July 13 (Fri): High school class participation; Tour of Asakusa
  - July 14 (Sat): Homestay
  - July 15 (Sun): Tree-planting ceremony
  - July 16 (Mon): Tour of Aeon Eco Store (Aeon Laketown)
  - July 17 (Tue): Tour of Mt. Fuji; Farewell party
  - July 18 (Wed): Return to China