

Cancellation of the JLTA 2018 Conference

September 24, 2018

Dear JLTA Members

As you have already been informed, as a result of the earthquake in Hokkaido which occurred on the 6th of September, we were left with no choice but to cancel the 2018 Annual Conference scheduled to take place on the 8th and 9th of September at Hokkai-Gakuen University in Sapporo. While the cancellation of this year's conference due to a natural disaster of this kind could hardly be foreseen, those members who were scheduled to deliver a presentation must have been greatly disappointed at having lost the opportunity to make a contribution to the field.

Please find below the important items with respect to how we will be handling matters following the cancellation of the Annual Conference. We would appreciate your understanding and cooperation as always. Last but not least, we would like to express our deepest condolences to those in the affected area, and pray for speedy recovery.

Sincerely yours,

Japan Language Testing Association (JLTA), President

Yoshinori Watanabe

JLTA 2018 Conference Organizing Committee, Chair

Hiroya Tanaka

Concerning the Cancellation of the 2018 JLTA Annual Conference

1. The conference will not be postponed for a later date.

- We investigated the possibility of holding a substitute conference.
- However, as the conference was canceled immediately prior to it taking place, at a point where all necessary preparations had already been completed, and as a significant amount of extra work was generated by the cancellation which consumed an inordinate amount of time on the part of organization committee, we concluded that at this stage the energy and time required to prepare a secondary conference would simply be impractical. Furthermore, we judged that there was some risk that any substitute conference preparation could negatively impact the beginning of preparations for the 2019 Annual Conference.
- Considering the above mentioned circumstances, we have decided that we will hold no alternative meeting to replace the canceled Annual Conference.

2. Regarding the *Conference Handbook* (printed version)

- The printed version of the *Conference Handbook* has not been distributed any of the members, non-members or cooperating bodies at the point of writing this document (September 24th).
- We have decided not to distribute the printed version of the *Conference Handbook*. Instead, we will dispose of all the existing copies.
- We believe that JLTA, as the association which cancelled this conference, ought to guarantee that all prospective presenters retain the freedom and capability to present their research in the same format, either at any other conferences or at next year's JLTA. In our scholarly field, many associations and conferences have a rule against giving the same presentation more than once at difference academic conferences. This means that the proposal to be submitted to an academic conference must be the one that has not been presented previously. Furthermore, the problem of self-plagiarism is becoming an issue in the field of academics with an attendant severity of its policing. We were concerned that if the abstract that was submitted to the 2018 JLTA conference were issued in the printed version of the *Conference Handbook*, that would increase the likelihood that presenters would be suspected of self-plagiarism or of duplicate submission if they were to submit the same abstract as the one they submitted to the JLTA 2018 to a conference in any future. We decided then to exercise preventive measures so that the problem of this kind should not in the future.

3. Regarding the "Conference Handbook" (the PDF Version Currently Available on the Association Website)

- With regards to the PDF version which is currently located on the association website, we have replaced it with an updated version, where each page (apart from the advertisements) has the

words “Conference Canceled.” In order to show that these presentations were planned on being given, we have added the following explanatory note: The 2018 Annual Conference of the Japan Language Testing Association was canceled due to the 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi earthquake. Therefore, presentations on this conference program were accepted but were not presented. Thus presentation elsewhere is acceptable.

4. Regarding the Contents of the Presentation that the presenter had scheduled

- Given the descriptions noted in #1, #2 and #3 above, all presenters are free to make a presentation that they prepared for the JLTA 2018 at either a different conference or at the 2019 JLTA Annual Conference without being worried about the problems self-plagiarism or duplicate submission.

5. Regarding the JLTA 2018 General Business Meeting

- We are now planning to hold the JLTA 2018 General Business Meeting by the end of this academic year, though details are yet to be decided. We will keep you updated by an e-mail and on our webpage.

6. Regarding the 2019 Annual Conference

- The 2019 Annual Conference is scheduled to take place in early September, 2019, at Niigata Seiryu University in Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture. At the time of writing, it is most likely held on the 11th and 12th of September. We shall make the final decision about the details by the end of April 2019.