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## Jamboree in Japan

This month, 50,000 Scouts worldwide will be gathering in Japan for the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree. This has been scheduled to coincide with the 70<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (6 & 9 August). Special Remembrance services will be held, with Scouts participating, at the sites where the devastating atom bombs were dropped.

## Economic Superpower

Japan is recognised as the world's third largest economy, yet it has been rocked by recessions and economic stagnation in recent years. Despite a lack of natural resources and oil, Japan has one of the world's most powerful exporting orientated economies. Unlike most economies, Japan has a high savings and enormous trade surplus. However, the low birth rate and ageing population presents major societal and economic concerns for the future. The Japanese have a strong work ethic and are polite, yet materialism dominates the ambitions of these very busy people, so they give little thought to God and Eternity.

### Urbanised Mission Field

Tokyo/Yokohama with 36 Million people, is one of the largest cities in the world. Over 66% of the population of Japan are urbanised. Life expectancy is 82 years. The multiple religious loyalties of the Japanese can be seen in that 85% describe themselves as Buddhist and 90% Shinto! Japan is an extremely materialistic culture. Its own leaders call Japan: *"A superpower without a moral compass."* Japan has one of the highest suicide rates in the world – over 30,000 a year. Bullying and teenage prostitution are major social problems.





[Why does God allow the suffering of His people? It is the power of God to bring about salvation for His people. Why does God allow the suffering of His people? It is the power of God to bring about salvation for His people.](#)