



Chapter 52

District 26 – Japan (1990–2019)¹

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 26 from the division of the original District 17 in 1990. As of 2019, District 26 comprises 48 clubs in Japan.

District 26 1990–2006

1990: Due to the rapid increase in membership, District 17 was divided into:

- District 17: clubs from Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand²
- District 25: clubs from Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka
- District 26: clubs from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan (Republic of China).

39 clubs and 1,359 members.³

1997: 1,267 members.

1998: 70 clubs organized in four areas:

- Area 01: North and East Region of Japan with 20 clubs.
- Area 02: Taiwan, Republic of China, with 14 clubs.
- Area 03: Korea with 14 clubs.
- Area 04: West region of Japan with 22 clubs.

2002–2004: 78 clubs in four areas:

- Area 01: 22 clubs (2004: 22 clubs)

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen, with contributions from Akiko Kinoshita, Governor District 26 2018-2020.

² Singapore was to have been in the new District 25 but asked to remain in District 17. Nepal was added to District 25 in 2012. Malaysia was added to District 17 in 1996 and Macau in 2014.

³ The Zontian 1990 – 1992 Program Issue

- Area 02: 15 clubs (2004: 16 clubs)
- Area 03: 19 clubs (2004: 18 clubs)
- Area 04: 22 clubs (2004: 22 clubs)

2005: The eighth District 26 Conference adopted a resolution to divide District 26 into three districts:

- District 26 for clubs in Japan.
- District 31 for clubs in Taiwan, Republic of China.
- District 32 for clubs in South Korea.

The Zonta International Board adopted the decision, which was effective from July 2006.

History of formation of District 26 clubs (1990–2006)

Japan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1990	1297	Zonta Club of Takamatsu	
1990	1308	Zonta Club of Akita	
1991	1314	Zonta Club of Okinawa	
1991	1338	Zonta Club of Kitakyushu	
1992	1401	Zonta Club of Otaru	
1993	1421	Zonta Club of Kyoto Miyabi	
1993	1433	Zonta Club of Osaka II	
1995	1501	Zonta Club of Wakayama	
1995	1520	Zonta Club of Fukushima	
1995	1522	Zonta Club of Matsumoto	
1995	1524	Zonta Club of Koriyama	2016
1996	1531	Zonta Club of Nagoya Sora	
1997	1557	Zonta Club of Sendai II	2006
1997	1559	Zonta Club of Minato Mirai	2000
1997	1560	Zonta Club of Senri	2003
1997	1575	Zonta Club of Phoenix Kobe	
1997	1580	Zonta Club of Nagasaki	2002
1998	1596	Zonta Club of Kushiro	
1998	1598	Zonta Club of Kanagawa	
1999	1628	Zonta Club of Kobe-Cyuo	2001
1999	1635	Zonta Club of Otsu	
2000	1664	Zonta Club of Chiba	2012
2000	1665	Zonta Club of Yokosuka	
2000	1677	Zonta Club of Tokyo III	
2001	1692	Zonta Club of Nara Manyoh	
2002	1736	Zonta Club of Aka Cosmos	
2005	1792	Zonta Club of Kanazawa	
2006	1824	Zonta Club of Himeji	

*Zonta International directories included an earlier Zonta Club of Okayama (no. 651) which operated 1970-1975.

South Korea

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1992	1399	Zonta Club of Seoul III-Nam Seoul	
1996	1534	Zonta Club of Busan II	
1996	1536	Zonta Club of Seoul IV	
1996	1537	Zonta Club of Seoul V	
1997	1561	Zonta Club of Seoul VI	
1998	1601	Zonta Club of Daegu II	
1998	1605	Zonta Club of Seoul VII	
1998	1606	Zonta Club of Kwangju II	2003
2000	1660	Zonta Club of Kyongju	2010
2001	1691	Zonta Club of Kang Nam	2010
2002	1710	Zonta Club of Daejeon II	
2002	1713	Zonta Club of Daejeon III	2009
2002	1714	Zonta Club of Daejeon IV	
2005	1788	Zonta Club of Jeju	2013
2005	1789	Zonta Club of Daejeon V	
2005	1790	Zonta Club of Jeon-Buk	2010

Taiwan, Republic of China

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1991	1343	Zonta Club of Taipei Shin	
1994	1484	Zonta Club of Kaohsiung Yuhsuan	
1995	1513	Zonta Club of Chia-Yi	
1997	1587	Zonta Club of Tainan Charming	
1999	1631	Zonta Club of Taoyuan	
2003	1742	Zonta Club of Miaoli	

District 26 Japan 2006–2019

2006: 901 members.

2007: The ninth District Conference adopted the division of District 26 into four areas:

- Area 01: Hokkaido and Tohoku regions.
- Area 02: Kanto and Cyubu.
- Area 03: Kinki.
- Area 04: Cyugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu.

2008: 46 clubs in four areas:

- Area 01: 14 clubs
- Area 02: 11 clubs
- Area 03: 11 clubs
- Area 04: ten clubs.

2015: 50 clubs in four areas with 972 members.

2016: 965 members.

2017: 957members.

2018: 981 members.⁴

2019: 921 members.

History of formation of District 26 clubs 2006–2019

Japan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2019	Closed
1961/62	0492	Zonta Club of Tokyo I	02	
1965	0547	Zonta Club of Osaka	03	
1965	0548	Zonta Club of Kyoto I	03	
1966	0560	Zonta Club of Sendai I	01	
1966	0564	Zonta Club of Yokohama	02	
1970	0648	Zonta Club of Sapporo I	01	
1970	0649	Zonta Club of Tokushima	04	
1971	0673	Zonta Club of Nagoya	02	2016
1974	0747	Zonta Club of Hakodate-Hokkaido	01	
1978	0838	Zonta Club of Naruto	04	
1978	0867	Zonta Club of Okayama	04	
1981	0980	Zonta Club of Kobe	04	
1982	1005	Zonta Club of Asahikawa Hokkaido	01	2014
1983	1056	Zonta Club of Shiogama Area	01	
1984	1071	Zonta Club of Tokyo II	02	
1984	1077	Zonta Club of Kyoto II	03	
1984	1078	Zonta Club of Gifu	02	
1985	1104	Zonta Club of Fukui	03	
1986	1154	Zonta Club of Sapporo II	01	
1986	1161	Zonta Club of Morioka	01	
1988	1231	Zonta Club of Hiroshima	04	2002
1989	1263	Zonta Club of Sapporo Iris	01	
1989	1267	Zonta Club of Nara	03	
1990	1297	Zonta Club of Takamatsu	04	
1990	1308	Zonta Club of Akita	01	
1991	1314	Zonta Club of Okinawa	04	
1991	1338	Zonta Club of Kitakyushu	04	
1992	1401	Zonta Club of Otaru	01	2019
1993	1421	Zonta Club of Kyoto Miyabi	03	
1993	1433	Zonta Club of Osaka II	03	

⁴ ZI Directory online

1995	1501	Zonta Club of Wakayama	03	
1995	1520	Zonta Club of Fukushima	01	
1995	1522	Zonta Club of Matsumoto	02	
1995	1524	Zonta Club of Koriyama	01	2016
1996	1531	Zonta Club of Nagoya Sora	02	
1997	1557	Zonta Club of Sendai II	01	2006
1997	1559	Zonta Club of Minato Mirai	02	2000
1997	1560	Zonta Club of Senri	03	2003
1997	1575	Zonta Club of Phoenix Kobe	04	
1997	1580	Zonta Club of Nagasaki	04	2002
1998	1596	Zonta Club of Kushiro	01	
1998	1598	Zonta Club of Kanagawa	02	
1999	1628	Zonta Club of Kobe-Chuo	04	2003
1999	1635	Zonta Club of Otsu	03	
2000	1664	Zonta Club of Chiba		2012
2000	1665	Zonta Club of Yokosuka	02	
2000	1677	Zonta Club of Tokyo III	02	
2001	1692	Zonta Club of Nara Manyoh	03	
2002	1736	Zonta Club of Aki Cosmos	04	
2005	1792	Zonta Club of Kanazawa	03	
2006	1824	Zonta Club of Himeji	04	
2007	1826	Zonta Club of Yamagata	01	
2012	1890	Zonta Club of Gunma	02	
2012	1893	Zonta Club of Sen-Himeji	04	
2012	1894	Zonta Club of Takamatsu II	04	2019
2015	1936	Zonta Club of Fukuoka	04	
2015	1938	Zonta Club of Fukui Reinan	03	
2015	1939	Zonta Club of Yamanashi	02	
2018	1971	Zonta Club of Mie	02	
2018	1982	Zonta Club of Fukui Fine	03	

District conferences and service and advocacy projects⁵

- **Region IV**

1971: Manila, Philippines. The theme was “Giving voices, hands and hearts in service for mankind”.

1973: Taipei, Taiwan. The theme was “My home is the world and my family are mankind”.

- **Region I**

1975: Nagoya, Japan. This meeting was the first region meeting in Japan. The theme was “The role of Zonta in Asia”. 200 members from nine clubs in Japan and 50 members from seven other Asian countries.

⁵ District 26 History in Brief, 2016

1977: Hong Kong. The theme was “Women united in service – the Zonta way”.

1979: Seoul. The theme was “The welfare in children”.

- **District 17**

1981: Bangkok, Thailand. The theme was “Share with others and serve with love”.

1983: Taipei, Taiwan. The theme was “Action for service, friendship for peace”.

1985: Tokyo, Japan. The theme was “Growth and progress through personal involvement”. Crown Princess Michiko attended the meeting.

1987: Manila, Philippines. The theme was “Building peace through serving and sharing”.

1989: Madras, India. The theme was “Division of the District”.

- **District 26**

1991: Taipei, Taiwan. The theme was “Communication”.

1993: Seoul, Korea. The theme was “Women in the 21st Century Facing the Issues”.

1995: Nagoya, Japan. As Japan had 35 clubs in one Area, there was discussion of creating a second Area.

Donations were collected for the earthquake devastated region of Hanshin Awaji and two resolutions were adopted at the conference:

- opposition to all nuclear testing to protect the earth’s environments and human health (proposed by the Zonta Club of Tokushima and Hiroshima)
- promotion of women’s reproductive health and rights.

1997: Taipei, Taiwan. The theme was “Dignity and Equality for the Asian Women”.

Lee Teng Hui, then-president of Taiwan, received Zontians in an audience in the presidential office. Minister of the Interior Ching-Fong Yeh chaired the conference. She joined Zonta in 1972 as a founding member of the Zonta Club of Taichung, later becoming its secretary and president. In 1994 she spearheaded a campaign by the combined Zonta clubs of Taiwan to combat drug abuse.⁶

1999: Yokohama, Japan. Her Imperial Majesty the Empress Michiko attended the reception. The theme was “Raising the status of women”.

Preparations were made for drafting rules of procedure for the district and the following ideas were adopted:

- members may make a statement in their native languages at the conference via an interpreter (Proposed by the Zonta Club of Tokyo II)
- Chiaki Mukai, the first woman astronaut in Japan, was recommended to Zonta International for appointment as an Honorary Member of Zonta International.

⁶ *The Zontian* 1996 – 1998 Issue 8, p. 13

2001: Otsu, Japan. The theme was “The Rebirth and Expansion of Zonta in 21century”. Because of an accounting problem in relation to the fifth district conference in 1999, the governor resigned after one year and the lieutenant governor took over. International President Mary Magee participated and reported that the accounting of the fifth District Conference had been handled properly.

2003: Taipei, Taiwan. The theme was “Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide”.

2005: Tokyo, Japan. Her Imperial Majesty the Empress Michiko visited the conference. The theme was “Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide”.

Two proposals were adopted:

- the division of District 26 into three districts: Japan, Taiwan and Korea.
- a proposal regarding Area dues which was forwarded to the International Bylaws Committee and adopted at the International Convention in Melbourne in 2006.

2007: Kobe, Japan.

Three proposals were adopted:

- District 26 was to be divided into 4 Areas:
 - Area 01: Hokkaido and Tohoku
 - Area 02: Kanto and Cyubu
 - Area 03: Kinki
 - Area 04: Cyugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu
- Area dues were to be collected together with District dues
- the cost for interpreting services at international conventions would be paid equally per capita.

2009: Sendai, Japan.

Two proposals were adopted:

- Zonta clubs in Japan did not want clubs from Mongolia to join District 26
- revision of Rules of Procedure of District 26 enables a Vice Area Director to be elected.

Two resolutions were adopted and forwarded to the Japanese Government:

- early ratification of the protocol of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination against Women)
- formation of a committee to follow the implementation of CEDAW.

2011: On 11 March, a major earthquake and tsunami impacted the Tohoku coast area of the island of Honshu. Zontians from all over the world donated to the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake Relief Fund established by the district to support women and children in disaster areas.

The fund:

- built a Zonta House in Yamada Town in Iwate Prefecture where affected children could study after school
- gave scholarships to students studying in nursing schools in three disaster prefectures: Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima.

At the eleventh District Conference in Nara, District 26 celebrated the 50th anniversary of Zonta in Japan. The theme was “Effort toward Realization of Zonta’s Dream”.

District 26 collected signatures and submitted them to the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, demanding the use of public funds for the vaccination of schoolgirls against human papilloma virus to protect them from cervical cancer.

2013: Okayama, Japan. The theme was “Opening the Future by Women’s Success”.

The following two resolutions were adopted:

- District 26 would host the 2018 Zonta International Convention, as adopted in 2014 by the Zonta International Board
- all clubs in District 26 were to join the campaign to end violence against women, provided the action plan incorporated the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign for 2012–2014.

To provide support after natural disasters, District 26 donated a Zonta Patrol Car to Kawauchi, a village in Fukushima, where people had been contaminated by the accident at the nuclear power plant in March 2011.

2015: Tokyo, Japan. The theme was “Empowering Women through Service and Advocacy”.

The following three proposals were adopted:

- to establish a fund to prepare for the 2018 International Convention in Yokohama
- that all clubs in District 26 would join the Zonta Rose Day campaign and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in November
- To build a center to help women impacted by sexual violence in all prefectures of Japan.

2017: Takamatsu, Japan. The theme was “Continue to Be a Leader Organization Defending Women’s Rights”.

The following four proposals were adopted:

- that “One-stop support centers” for women impacted by violence in Japan be considered necessities
- that all clubs in District 26 participate in Zonta Rose Day on 8 March
- that, in principle, information on club anniversary ceremonies from one to 19 years be restricted to the respective areas
- that the newly established Zonta Club of Mie belong to Area 02.

2019: Kitakyushu, Japan in October.

The following two proposals were adopted:

- to make an appeal to the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare for equal pay between men and women. The law has been adopted but it is not practised in many large companies
- to reconsider Activity Allowances for Area Directors.

Education programs:

- **Amelia Earhart Fellowship**
 - 18 women have received the Amelia Earhart Fellowship since 1996, among them four women for two years
 - Naoko Yamazaki received the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1994. She is the second Japanese astronaut and was recommended to Zonta International as an International Honorary Member in 2012.
- **Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship**
 - Since 2000, District 26 has had a district recipient of the Jane M. Klausman Scholarship. However, at the time of writing, no nominee from District 26 has yet received an international Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.
- **Young Women in Public Affairs Award**

- Young women applied for the YWPA Award in 1992, 2002, 2004, 2008 and from 2009 to 2015. Although District 26 had a district award winner each year, none of them received the Award at the international level.

International Conventions in District 26

District 26 was successful in hosting the International Convention in Yokohama in 2018. In the history of the district of over 50 years, this is the first time the district had hosted an International Convention in Japan.

Z and Golden Z Clubs in Japan⁷

The first Golden Z Club in District 26 was established in Keisen Women's University sponsored by the Zonta Club of Tokyo II in 2010. As of 2015, 11 Golden Z Clubs were established.

Golden Z Club	Year Established	Sponsoring Club
Keisen Women's University	2010	Zonta Club of Tokyo II
Nara University	2011	Zonta Club of Nara
Kurashiki Sakuyo University	2011	Zonta Club of Okayama
University of Hyogo	2012	Zonta Club of SEN-Himeji
University of Kindai Himeji	2012	Zonta Club of Himeji
University of Matsumoto	2013	Zonta Club of Matsumoto
Seinan Jo Gakuin University	2013	Zonta Club of Kitakyushu
University of Chubu Gakuin	2013	Zonta Club of Gifu
Shikoku University	2014	Zonta Club of Naruto
Takamatsu University	2015	Zonta Club of Takamatsu
Miyagigakuin Women's University	2015	Zonta Club of Sendai I

Z Club	Year Established	Sponsoring Club
Hokusei Gakuen Girls' Junior & Senior High School	2016	Zonta Club of Sapporoll
Japan Aviation Academy	2017	Zonta Club of Yamanashi

⁷ District 26 History in Brief, 2016