

JAXA selects two new astronauts

1 The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency or, JAXA, announced on February 28th that they have selected two astronaut candidates. JAXA has recruited new astronaut candidates for the first time since 2009.

2 The two are Makoto Suwa, 46, a specialist of climate change and disaster risk management at the World Bank, and Ayu Yoneda, 28, a surgeon at the Japanese Red Cross Medical Center. Both are originally from Tokyo. They will join JAXA this April, and undergo training at NASA and other facilities for two years. The two are expected to be officially recognized as the 12th and 13th JAXA astronauts in March 2025.

3 Suwa and Yoneda exchanged a virtual handshake at the press conference announcing their selection, because Suwa was joining the conference online from Washington D.C. where the World Bank is located.

4 Suwa graduated from the University of Tokyo, and earned a doctorate at Princeton University. He previously worked in Rwanda as a math and science teacher at high school and college via the JOCV(*1) program. He also worked for the World Meteorological Organization(*2), and has worked at the World Bank since 2014. It was the second time that he applied for JAXA's astronaut selection exam. Unfortunately, when he took the previous exam in 2008, he failed in the first round.

aerospace 航空宇宙 exploration 探検・調査 candidate 候補者 recruit 募集・採用する surgeon 外科医
undergo (訓練などを)受ける facility 施設 be expected to~:~すると期待されている recognize 承認する
press conference 記者会見 be located 位置する earn a doctorate 博士号を取得する previously 以前は
meteorological 気象の apply for~:~に申し込む unfortunately 残念ながら *1 JOCV(Japan Overseas
Cooperation Volunteers)青年海外協力隊 *2 the World Meteorological Organization 世界気象機関

Q1 How many years have passed since JAXA recruited new astronaut candidates last?

Q2 諏訪理さんについて、どこで、どんな職業をしているか説明しましょう。

Q3 米田あゆさんについて、どこで、どんな職業をしているか説明しましょう。

Q4 After joining JAXA, what will Suwa and Yoneda do?

Q5 When will they be officially recognized as astronauts?

Q6 Why did Suwa and Yoneda exchange a virtual handshake at the press conference?

Q7 Where did Suwa go to university?

Q8 What did he do in Rwanda?

Q9 What does the World Meteorological Organization do?

Q10 When Suwa took JAXA's astronaut test in 2008, what happened?

5 Yoneda graduated from the University of Tokyo's graduate school of medicine in 2019. She will be the third Japanese female astronaut after Chiaki Mukai and Naoko Yamazaki. She will be the youngest among the nation's active astronauts.

6 Yoneda said, "I am happy and surprised. I also felt a sense of responsibility and calling, and braced myself up. I am grateful to all the people that have supported me thus far."

7 The average age of the current six Japanese astronauts is 53, and they are all male. Regarding the all-male environment, Yoneda said, "Of course there are factors such as age and gender, and I think that men and women are often viewed in different ways, but I myself would like to do my best as an astronaut candidate rather than as a young female. I hope to use my knowledge as a doctor to give back to Earth."

8 Both candidates have been interested in space since their childhood. Suwa says when he was a high school student, he was excited to see the news of Mamoru Mohri's becoming Japan's first-ever astronaut to travel to space in a space shuttle 30 years ago. He also participated in JAXA's debriefing session and listened to the space mission report directly from Mohri. ① This experience inspired him to be an astronaut one day.

9 When Yoneda was a child, her father gave her the manga of the biography of Chiaki Mukai, the first Japanese female astronaut. "I learned about the job of an astronaut from that book. I was moved by the scene in which Mukai was impressed with the beauty of Earth she saw from space," she said. "That was when I became interested in becoming an astronaut."

10 The two may become the first Japanese astronauts to board a new space station orbiting the moon, and even step onto the moon under NASA's Artemis program(*3), a global lunar exploration project. Humans haven't been to the moon since 1972.

sense of responsibility 責任感 calling 神の思し召し・使命 brace oneself up 気を引き締める be grateful to~:~に感謝している thus このように current 現在の regarding = about factor 要素 space shuttle 宇宙連絡船 debriefing session 報告回 board~:~に乗る orbit~:~の周りを軌道に乗って回る lunar 月の
3 Artemis program アルテミス計画(米国が出資する月面着陸計画) ★()

Q11 Where did Yoneda go to universities?

Q12 How many female astronauts were there before Yoneda?

Q13 How many male/female astronauts are there in JAXA right now? What is their average age?

Q14 米田さんは、自分の年齢や性別を注目されることについて、記者会見で何と言いましたか。

Q15 What is the news that made Suwa excited when he was in high school?

Q16 下線①について、詳しく説明しましょう。

Q17 What kind of book was Yoneda given from her father?

Q18 What is her favorite scene in the book?

Q19 諏訪さんと米田さんは、日本人として初めて、何をする可能性が高いですか。

Q20 How many applicants applied for the latest JAXA astronaut exam?

Q21 Why did the number of applicants rocket up by 4.3 times from the previous time? Please write down your opinion.

Q22 How long did it take for JAXA to conduct the astronaut selection tests?

Q23 宇宙飛行士選抜試験は、どのような内容ですか。日本語で説明しましょう。

Q24 Astronaut selection tests are said to be very hard. Why are they so hard? What kind of abilities are necessary for astronauts? Please give at least five skills.

Q25 What do you think about today's news?



Japan's space agency selects two astronauts from record 4,127 applications

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20230228_20/

英語ニュース(1分半)

JAXA selects two astronaut candidates 英語ニュース(1分)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzNuSRPdBEs>

※33秒で二人の virtual handshake が映し出されます。



*Thank you: Illust AC



★次の文を3回ずつ読んで、暗唱しましょう。

1. JAXA has recruited new astronauts for the first time since 2009.
2. It was the second time that he applied for JAXA's astronaut selection exam. Unfortunately, when he took the previous exam in 2008, he failed in the first round.
3. "I also felt a sense of responsibility and calling, and braced myself up. I am grateful to all the people that have supported me thus far."
4. "I was moved by the scene in which Mukai was impressed with the beauty of Earth she saw from space," she said.
5. He also participated in JAXA's debriefing session to listen to the space mission report directly from Mohri. This experience inspired him to be an astronaut one day.
6. The number of applicants rocketed up by 4.3 times from the previous time.

(和訳)

1. JAXA は 2009 年ぶりに、新しい宇宙飛行士を募集しました。

★for the first time in ~ years

: 直訳すると「~年の中で初めて」の意味ですが、「~年ぶりに」と訳します。

2. 諏訪さんが JAXA の宇宙飛行士選抜試験に申し込むのは2回目でした。残念なことに、2008 年に彼が前回の試験を受けた時は、第一段階で落ちてしまいました。

★previous : 現時点より、すぐ前の、という意味です。

※former との違いに注意。 former : 「元~」「昔の~」という意味なので、直近とは限らない。

3. 「責任と使命を感じて身が引き締まる思いです。私をここまで支えてくれたすべての人に感謝しています」
(米田さんのインタビューより)

★calling は、神が「宣言(call)した」という意味で「天職、神の思し召し、使命」の意味があります。

★brace oneself up : 気持ちを引き締める

4. 「私は、向井さんが宇宙から見た地球の美しさに感動する場面で、心を動かされました。」

★the beauty of Earth () she saw from space ※空欄には関係代名詞が入ります

5. 彼は JAXA が主催する報告会に参加し、直接、毛利さんのスペースミッションの報告スピーチを聞きました。この経験が、彼に「いつか宇宙飛行士になりたい」という夢を持たせました。

★inspire 目的語 to 動詞の原形 : ~ (人) に感銘を与えて (鼓舞して) ~する気にさせる

6. 応募者数は、前回から 4.3 倍に急増しました。

★差や倍数を言う時は、前置詞 by で数値を具体的に表現します。

(例) We lost the game by one point.

The number increased by five times.