

## Firms headhunt in U.S. for Japanese students

NEW YORK (Kyodo) Japanese companies are stepping up efforts to recruit Japanese students in the U.S. as headhunting competition intensifies at home amid the economic recovery.

These students' English ability and their experience living in the United States are attractive to Japanese firms.

A record 9,000 Japanese youths gathered in Boston from around the U.S. for a three-day career forum through Sunday for bilingual students, the largest such gathering ever.

A record 175 companies participated in the event, which was being held for the 20th time. About 50 companies, including Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Asahi Kasei Corp., took part for the first time.



Japanese students at U.S. universities take part in a career forum last week. KYODO PHOTO

"We are able to recruit personnel with more qualifications (in the United States) than in Japan," said an official at apparel retail chain Xebio Co., one of the firms joining the event for the first time.

It allowed Japanese students at U.S. universities who may have difficulty coming to Japan to get a job interview.

"It is a good opportunity to have an interview in the United States," said a Japanese junior at Boston University.

Disco International Inc., a human resources firm that hosted the career forum, said the mass retirement of baby boomers starting

next year and cutbacks in hiring after the burst of the bubble economy in the early 1990s have also led to the intensifying competition to recruit university graduates.

Similar career forums have been held in other cities, including New York.

The number of Japanese companies directly visiting U.S. universities to recruit Japanese students is also increasing.

Recruit Co., which provides employment information services, said many Japanese companies are increasing hiring amid the recovery.

The number of job offers for undergraduates and postgraduates is 825,000, around the same level as in 1991 at the peak of the bubble.

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