

K-Pop stardom lures Japanese youth to Korea despite diplomatic *chill*

Yuuka Hasumi put high school in Japan on hold and flew to South Korea in February to try her chances at becoming a K-pop star, even if that means long hours of vocal and dance training, no privacy, no boyfriend, and even no phone.

She is one of an estimated one million other K-pop star *wannabes*, from South Korea and abroad, hoping to get a shot at super competitive *auditions* by major talent agencies that will take on just a select few as "*trainees*".

chill 冷冻; 寒冷

wannabe 想要成为的

audition 面试; 试演

trainee 实习生; 练习生

The *influx* of Japanese talent that is reshaping the K-pop industry comes at a time of increasingly bitter political *acrimony* between the two countries that has damaged diplomatic ties.

influx 流入; 汇集

acrimony 辛辣; 尖刻

That the tension has done little to *dent* the K-pop craze among Japanese youth, and the willingness by Korean agencies to take on Japanese talent, *speak to* the strength of the ties between their people, according to one long-time observer.

dent 削弱; 减少

speak to 证明

Some Japanese transplants have already made it big. The three Japanese members of the girl band Twice helped make the group the second most popular act in Japan, after BTS.

Agency officials are reluctant to discuss their success in Japan and the *infusion* of Japanese talent, *wary* of fuelling a politically charged backlash, industry sources said.

infusion 灌输; 浸泡

wary 谨慎的; 机警的