



Face-to-Face (in Japan)

JICA Program GENERAL INFORMATION

Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus)

Enhancement of Startup Ecosystem In Regional Cities

JFY2026



Course Number: 202515023J001

Course Period: August 17 - September 19, 2026



NOTE: Adobe Acrobat Reader DC and Google Chrome are recommended as PDF viewer. JAWS and NVDA are recommended as screen reader.

NOTE: If there are any difficulties in reading this document, please contact JICA Office in your country or JICA Center in Japan.

NOTE: Depending on the circumstances, some or all of the program periods may be changed or cancelled after the application has been accepted.

地方都市におけるスタートアップ・エコシステム構築発展



What can we do to enhance startup ecosystems?

Gain insight of various actors consisting
startup ecosystems and their approach to
promote innovation of entrepreneurs
from the experiences of Japan.



Outline



This program aims to enhance entrepreneurship and capacity to promote entrepreneurs and startup ecosystems in regional cities.

The sessions will be held in Fukuoka, Japan and will include study tour inside and outside of Fukuoka.

All sessions are carried out in English.

The period of the program is from August 17 – September 19, 2026.



Course Capacity:
7 participants



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released the Development Cooperation Charter in June 2023, stated that “In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together.” We believe that this ‘Knowledge Co-Creation Program’ will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

Table of Contents

For What?

(Background, Objectives) 6

To Whom?

(Job Areas and Organizations, Targeted Countries) 6

When?

(Online Program Period, Face-to-Face Program Period) 7

Where?

(Place Where the Program Take Place) 7

How?

(How to Learn, Language, Commitment to the SDGs) 8

(Output and Contents) 9-10

(Instructors, Coordinator, Interpreter, Program Officer) 10

Voice

(Past Program Alumni Comments) 11

Eligibility and Procedures

(Expectations to the Applying Organizations, Nominee Qualifications) 13-14

(Required Documents for Application) 15

(Procedures for Application and Selection) 14-15

(Conditions for Participation) 16

Administrative Arrangements

(Organizer (JICA Center in Japan), Implementing Partner, Travel to Japan,
Accommodation in Japan, Expenses, Pre-departure Orientation) 17-19

Annex

(Country Report) 20

For Your Reference

(JICA and Capacity Development, Japanese Development Experience) 25

Correspondence

(For Enquiries and Further Information) 26

For What?

Background

The creation of innovations by startups is expected to contribute to solving social issues and to promote economic growth in developing countries through the creation of new industries and employment opportunities.

Therefore, creation and development of a “startup ecosystem” is urgently needed to realize a situation in which innovative startups are continuously and autonomously created and nurtured.

Objectives

Participants understand factors and challenges of startup ecosystems in each country, understand overview of policy and programs to support entrepreneurs, enhance startup ecosystems in Japan and roles of each stakeholder, and understand actual cases of startup ecosystem promotion.

To Whom?

Job Areas and Organizations

This program is offered to administrative officers or staffs from business associations or educational institutions in charge of supporting entrepreneurs or promotion of startup ecosystems.

The applying organization with the best intention to utilize the opportunity of this program will be highly valued in the selection.

Targeted Countries

Algeria, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Montenegro and Nigeria.

Participants who have successfully completed the program will be awarded a certificate by JICA.

When?

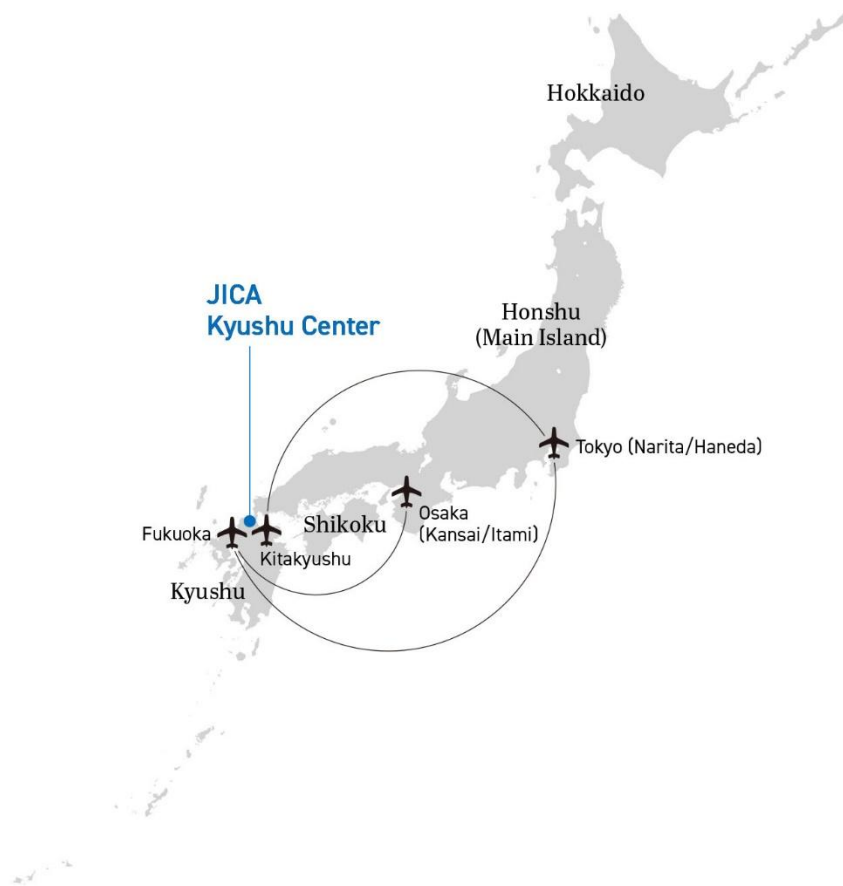
Where?

Face to Face Program Period



From August 17
to September 19, 2026

This course will be carried out in
Fukuoka, Japan, organized by JICA
Kyushu Center.



How?

How to Learn

- Lectures
- Field Visits
- Workshops
- Discussions
- Presentations



Language

English

Commitment to the SDGs



Output and Contents

This course consists of the following components. Details on each component are given below. *Details are subject to change.

Expected Module Output	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
1) To understand the requirements for startup ecosystem and challenges of the participant's own country	1) Entrepreneurship and Idea Generation with Artistic Thinking 2) Concept of Entrepreneurial Development 3) Business Strategies for Entrepreneurs 4) Ideathon, Hackathon 5) Design Strategies for Entrepreneurs 6) Business requirements for successful Entrepreneurship 7) Startup by Women and Support for Them 8) Intellectual Property Management for Entrepreneurship and Supporters 9) Strengthen the Startup Ecosystem: Roles & Responsibilities as Supporters 10) Business Startup by Using Digital Technology	Lecture Practice Discussion
2) To understand the overview support policies for the entrepreneurs from the governments, universities, and stakeholders	11) Startup Support Measures and Specific Policy Examples in Kyushu 12) Start-Up and Venture Business Support Project 13) JFC's Business Start-up Support 14) JICA's Approach to Private Sector Development 15) Startup ecosystem in Japan 16) Overall Picture of Startup Support by Japanese Government 17) Initiatives in Kitakyushu City, a Hub for Promoting the Startup Ecosystem 18) COMPASS KOKURA, Startup Support	Lecture Site Visit

	<p>Facility in Kitakyushu</p> <p>19) Kitakyushu Science and Research Park (FAIS)</p> <p>20) Tokyo Innovation Base, Startup Support Base in Tokyo</p> <p>21) CIC Fukuoka (CIC's Second base in Japan)</p> <p>22) Chamber of Commerce and Industry Support for Business Startups</p> <p>23) Robert T. Huang Entrepreneurship Center of Kyushu University</p> <p>24) Nishi-Nippon City Bank's Support for Startups</p> <p>25) Introduction of Polytech Center Fukuoka</p>	
3) To understand the venture capitals' perspectives and activities of startups	<p>26) Accelerator - Startup Go! Go!</p> <p>27) KiQ Robotics - Initiatives of University and Technical College Venture Companies</p> <p>28) Regnio - DX business development</p> <p>29) Filtom</p> <p>30) IJGN GROUP</p> <p>31) Startups - Agritree</p> <p>32) Visit to YASKAWA</p> <p>33) Visit to Toyota Motor Kyushu</p>	Lecture Site Visit

Management Members

Course Leader

Mr. HIDA Atsushi

Kitakyushu International Techno-cooperative Association.(KITA)

Message: I have worked in the engineering and technical planning departments of Nippon Steel Engineering before joining KITA.

Kitak yushu city is known for growing numbers of startups, so let's learn about practical approach to enhance startup ecosystem together."



Coordinator

Ms. HATANO Ayako

JICA Training Coordinator

Message: "Hello, I am a course coordinator for this training course. I am looking forward to seeing the participants from different countries and spending the valuable time together in Japan. I wish this will be a once in a lifetime experience for all of you!"



Program Officer

Mr. OSHIRO Yosaku

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Kyushu Center

Message: "Hello everyone, welcome to this course! I am excited to have participants across the world and share our knowledge to promote entrepreneurs and startup ecosystems in regional cities."



Voice

Past Program Alumni Comments



**Fabian Aguilar
Urban**

Mexico

The JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program was a rewarding learning experience. It had a great balance between solid theory and real-world case studies, which made everything feel directly applicable to what I do in venture capital. Beyond the classroom, I had the opportunity to engage with local entrepreneurs, government officials, and investors from Kyushu and Tokyo. These conversations gave me a deeper understanding of how Japan views entrepreneurship (which also helped me further understand Japanese business culture and etiquette), and how we can build stronger connections between Japan and Latin America.



Eligibility and Procedures

1. Expectations to the Applying Organizations

- (1) This course is designed primarily for organizations that intend to address specific issues or problems identified in their operation. Applying organizations are expected to use the program for those specific purposes.
 - (2) This course is enriched with contents and facilitation schemes specially developed in collaboration with relevant prominent organizations in Japan. These special features enable the course to meet specific requirements of applying organizations and effectively facilitate them toward solutions for the issues and problems.
-

2. Nominee Qualifications

Applying organizations are expected to select nominees who meet the following qualifications.

【 Remarks 】 Each Organizations is requested to strongly encourage female candidates to apply for the course to accelerate the realization of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Disabilities: Persons with disabilities who meet the required qualifications also have an opportunity to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be considered for participants with disabilities. However, some programs of the course might have difficulty for persons with disabilities to participate due to environmental and other conditions. “Reasonable accommodation” means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case.

(1) Essential Qualifications

- 1) Current Duties:
 - 〈public sector〉
 - a. Administrative officers in charge of promotion of entrepreneurs and startup ecosystems
 - b. Staffs of local business associations or educational institutes in charge of promotion of entrepreneurs and startup ecosystems
 - 〈private sector〉
Staffs of the organizations of startup ecosystems
- 2) Experience in the Relevant Field: have more than 1 year's experience in the field of promotion of entrepreneurs or startup ecosystems.
- 3) Educational Background: be a graduate of university
- 4) Language Proficiency: have a competent command of spoken and written English proficiency equivalent to TOEFL iBT 100 or above (This workshop includes active participation in discussions, which requires high competence in English. Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC etc, if possible)
- 5) Health: must be in good health to participate in the program in Japan. To reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest to declare in the Medical History (QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS RESTRICTION of the application form) if you have been a patient of following illnesses; Hypertension / Diabetes / Cardiovascular illness / Heart failure / Chronic respiratory illness.

(2) Recommended Qualifications

- 1) Expectations for the Participants
 - 2) Age: between the ages of twenty-five (25) and forty-five (45) years
 - 3) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: JICA seeks more female applicants due to the past records of fewer applications from women. JICA is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and provides equal opportunities for all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
 - 4) Difficulties/Disabilities: The participation of person with difficulties/disabilities is welcomed. Reasonable accommodation for persons with difficulties/disabilities will be made. Please write your situation in the Questionnaire on medical status restriction of the Application form. (Japan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in January 2014 and JICA has observed it.)
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3. Required Documents for Application

(1) **Application Form:** The Application Form is available at the JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan)

* If you have any difficulties/disabilities which require assistance, please specify necessary assistances in the QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS RESTRICTION (1-(c)) of the application form. Information will be reviewed and used for reasonable accommodation.

(2) **Photocopy of Passport:** You should submit it with the application form if you possess your passport which you will carry when entering Japan for this program. If not, you are requested to submit its photocopy as soon as you obtain it.

*The following information should be included in the photocopy:

Name, Date of Birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport Number and Expiry Date

(3) **Job Report & Issue Analysis Sheet (IAS):** to be submitted with the application form. The documents should be completed in accordance with descriptions of Annex-1 (Job Report) and Annex-2 (Issue Analysis Sheet). Each applicant should submit his/her IAS with approval of his/her superior.

4. Procedures for Application and Selection

(1) Submission of the Application Documents

Closing date for applications: **Please confirm the local deadline with the JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan).**

(All required material must arrive at JICA Center in Japan by **June 12, 2026**)

(2) Selection

Primary screening is conducted at the JICA overseas office (or the embassy of Japan) after receiving official documents from your government. JICA Center will consult with concerned organizations in Japan in the process of final selection. Applying organizations with the best intentions to utilize the opportunity will be highly valued.

The Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to

be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.

(3) Notice of Acceptance

The JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan) will notify the results not later than July 17, 2026.

5. Conditions for Participation

The participants of KCCP are required

- (1) to strictly observe the course schedule,
- (2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants themselves,
- (3) to understand that leaving Japan during the course period (to return to home country, etc.) is not allowed (except for programs longer than one year),
- (4) not to bring or invite any family members (except for programs longer than one year),
- (5) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,
- (6) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments,
- (7) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (8) to discontinue the program, should the participants violate the Japanese laws or JICA's regulations, or the participants commit illegal or immoral conduct, or get critical illness or serious injury and be considered unable to continue the course. The participants shall be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care stipulated in (3) of "3.Expenses", "Administrative Arrangements",
- (9) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for the KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (10) not to drive a car or motorbike, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (11) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation, and
- (12) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule.
- (13) to bring their own computers to access digital textbooks and to submit assignments during the training program.

Administrative Arrangements

1. Organizer (JICA Center in Japan)

- (1) **Center:** JICA Kyushu Center (JICA Kyushu)
- (2) **Program Officer:** Mr. OSHIRO Yusaku (kicctp@jica.go.jp)
- (3) **URL:** (a) Introduction of JICA Kyushu
[Kyushu Center - JICA](#)
(b) Introduction of Knowledge Co-Creation Program
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLurfKugrEw>

2. Implementing Partner

- (1) **Name:** Kitakyushu International Techno-cooperative Association (KITA)
- (2) **URL:** <http://www.kita.or.jp/english/>

3. Expenses

The following expenses in Japan will be provided by JICA

- (1) Allowances for meals, living expenses, and stopover.
- (2) Expenses for study tours (basically in the form of train tickets).
- (3) Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment **are not included**).
- (4) Expenses for program implementation, including materials.
- (5) For more details, please see “III. ALLOWANCES” of the brochure for participants titled “KENSU-IN GUIDE BOOK,” which will be given before departure for Japan.

*Link to JICA HP (English/French/Spanish/Russian):

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/tech/accept

4. Pre-departure Orientation

A pre-departure orientation will be held at respective country's JICA office (or the Japanese Embassy), to provide Participants with details on travel to Japan, conditions of the course, and other matters.

Part I: Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan	
English ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLurfKugrEw
French ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2yU9lSYcTY
Spanish ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7l-WlQSDjl
Russian ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7_ujz37AQc
Arabic ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iBQqdpXQb4
Part II: Introduction of JICA Centers in Japan	
JICA Kyushu	https://www.jica.go.jp/kyushu/english/office/index.html

If the link of these YouTube URLs has expired, please access the URL below and search the necessary information from the key word.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/JICAChannel02>

5. Reference

PDF: KENSHU-IN GUIDE BOOK

For more detailed terms and conditions

https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/tech/acceptance/training/c8h0vm0000011i07-att/guide_2024_en.pdf

Website: JICA

English/French/Spanish

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/tech/acceptance/training/index.html

6. Other Information

. Job Report & Issue Analysis Sheet (IAS)



Each applicant is required to submit his/her own Job Report & Issue Analysis Sheet following the instruction. Visual materials such as Power Point and pictures may be helpful. The form of Job Report and IAS is written in Annex sheet hereinafter. Candidates should describe the items below in Job Report.

- 1) Your organization and your task
- 2) Existing issues/challenges* in your section**
- 3) Expectations for the training course

* Definitions of the Issues and Challenges

Issues: Those which underperform your section's performance despite the effort you've made in the past and should be addressed urgently.

Challenges: Those which does not do harm your/your section's performance badly at present but everybody in your section recognizes that they are the problems and should be grappled with in the future for the improvement of your/your section's performance.

** Particularly item 2), we request specific as well as detailed description so that this training course can suggest serviceable advice. Simple description such as "Lack of budget", "Lack of market" and "Lack of Manpower and Technology" cannot give us any information to judge the issue for its solution. This item is quite related to Issue Analysis Sheet (IAS) that candidates are also requested to submit. We regard item 2) as the most critical description in order to qualify the participant in this course. Therefore, candidates are requested to describe item 2) specifically and accurately in detail so that we can understand your passion for attending the course. In addition, IAS as the summery of item 2) has to be submitted along with Job Report.

Annex-1 “Job Report”

Job Report : The Report should be typewritten in English (12-point font, A4 size paper), and total pages of the report should be limited to 3 pages.

1. Cover Page

- 1) Write your Name, Country, Organization, present post & E-mail address

2. Your organization and your task

- 1) Brief your organization's role in fostering entrepreneurs and forming a startup ecosystem in your country.
- 2) Organization chart: Please draw a chart of your organization including the department (section) names with the number of staffs in it and mark where you are positioned. (The chart should be attached and not be counted in this page limit.) Please describe a duty of each department (section) briefly.
- 3) Brief description of your assignments.

3. Existing issues/challenges in your section

- 1) Issues/Challenges you are facing in your section
- 2) Countermeasures for these issues/challenges
- 3) Obstacles in the process of solving those issues/challenges

4. Expectations for the training course

- 1) Your purpose of participating in the course
- 2) Subjects of the course which you are interested in the most
- 3) How do you expect to apply skills and knowledge for overcoming challenges according to listed items in curriculum (in the previous section) after finishing this program?

5. Write if there is a theme you want to know in particular.

<Job Report Presentation>

Once your application is successfully approved, you are requested to prepare your Job Report in Power Point Presentation (PPT), submit the report to the course leader and then exchange discussion along with IAS sheet with the course leader prior to the visit to Japan. Details shall be instructed by the course leader after you are chosen as the participant. At an early stage of the training, you will be requested to make a ten-minute-long oral presentation of your Job Report using the PPT document. This is for the purpose of making the training more effective and fruitful by comprehending the situations and problems of the participants.

Annex-2

“Issue Analysis Sheet (IAS)”

1. What is IAS?

- (1) IAS is a tool to logically organize relationships between issues and contents of the training program in Japan.
- (2) IAS will help the nominee to clarify his/her issues/challenges to be covered in each expected module output and to formulate solutions to them.
- (3) The sheet is to be utilized as a logical process control sheet to draw up improvement plans for the issues by filling out the sheet in phases from prior to the nominee's arrival through to the end of the training.
- (4) In addition, it is used for the course leader and lecturers to understand the issues that each participant is confronting, and provide him/her with technical advice, useful references and solutions through the training program in Japan.

2. How to fill out IAS?

- (1) Please describe the issues you confront in column “A: Issues that you confront”. You shall describe issues/challenges you are facing in your section also in the Job Report. Among them, in column A, please describe only those issues/challenges you expect to solve utilizing information and knowledge being delivered in this training

course. Prepare the separate rows for each problem; if necessary, please add new rows. After you clarify the issues/challenges, you choose one of them from which you extract tasks and work on as your action plan. Since action plan's time frame is one or one and half years, one of the issues has been chosen in most cases.

(2) In column “B: Actions that you are taking”, please describe actions that you are taking to solve the issues shown in “Column A”. This information is very important to carry out the training course and also to make Action Plan as a fruit of the training.

(3) It is not necessary to fill in column “ I : Task or the information that I need”, column “ II : Useful information that I obtained/found” and column “ III: Lecturer”. These columns shall be filled out during the training.

(4) “Column I ” shall be clarified and filled out in the subject “Task extraction using IAS” implemented at the earlier time in the training.

(5) “Column II ” and “Column III ” shall be filled out during the training and you are required to present completed IAS in the subject “Action Plan Presentation”. 3.

Format of IAS Please use attached IAS in Excel Sheet.

3. Format of IAS

Please use attached IAS in Excel Sheet.

For Your Reference

JICA and Capacity Development

Technical cooperation is people-to-people cooperation that supports partner countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacities to address development challenges by their own efforts. Instead of applying Japanese technology per se to partner countries, JICA's technical cooperation provides solutions that best fit their needs by working with people living there. In the process, consideration is given to factors such as their regional characteristics, historical background, and languages. JICA does not limit its technical cooperation to human resources development; it offers multi-tiered assistance that also involves organizational strengthening, policy formulation, and institution building.

Implementation methods of JICA's technical cooperation can be divided into two approaches. One is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts and volunteers in various development sectors to partner countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The latter method is the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, formerly called Training Program, and it is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from partner countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries.



The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) has long occupied an important place in JICA operations. About 400 pre-organized courses cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection. A variety of programs is being customized by the different target organizations to address the specific needs, such as policy-making organizations, service provision organizations, as well as research and academic institutions. Some programs are organized to target a certain group of countries with similar developmental challenges.

Japanese Development Experience

Japan, as the first non-Western nation to become a developed country, built itself into a country that is free, peaceful, prosperous and democratic while preserving its tradition. Japan will serve as one of the best examples for our partner countries to follow in their own development.

From engineering technology to production management methods, most of the know-how that has enabled Japan to become what it is today has emanated from a process of adoption and adaptation, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories.

Through Japan's progressive adaptation and application of systems, methods and technologies from the West in a way that is suited to its own circumstances, Japan has developed a storehouse of knowledge not found elsewhere from unique systems of organization, administration and personnel management to such social systems as the livelihood improvement approach and governmental organization. It is not easy to apply such experiences to other countries where the circumstances differ, but the experiences can provide ideas and clues useful when devising measures to solve problems.

JICA, therefore, would like to invite as many leaders of partner countries as possible to come and visit us, to mingle with the Japanese people, and witness the advantages as well as the disadvantages of Japanese systems, so that integration of their findings might help them reach their developmental objectives.

This information pertains to one of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Group & Region Focus) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both Governments.



Correspondence

For enquiries and further information, please contact the JICA office or Embassy of Japan.

Further, address correspondence to:

JICA Kyushu Center (JICA Kyushu)

Address: 2-2-1 Hirano, Yahata-Higashiku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka, 805-8505 Japan

TEL: +81-(0)93-671-6311

("81" is the country code for Japan, and "78" is the local area cod