



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus)

General information on

**Development of Societies in Harmony with Nature
through Sustainable Natural Resource Management**

課題別研修「持続可能な自然資源管理を通じた自然共生社会の構築」

JFY 2026

Course No.: 202515120J001

Course Period

Online: July 29, 2026

In Japan: From August 20 to September 8, 2026

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.

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released the Development Cooperation Charter in June 2023, which stated, *“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.”* JICA believes that this ‘Knowledge Co-Creation Program’ will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

I. Concept

Background

This course is aligned with international environmental frameworks for socio-economic development that emphasize achieving harmony between people and nature. In many developing countries, unsustainable use of natural resources has led to environmental degradation, threatening ecosystem services that support people's livelihoods and exacerbating poverty. Addressing these challenges requires integrated approaches that balance environmental conservation with economic and social development.

At the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) held in October 2010, the SATOYAMA Initiative was launched to promote biodiversity conservation and human well-being through the sustainable use of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (Satoyama and Satoumi). This initiative provides a practical framework for integrated natural resource management that contributes to sustainable development.

Japan has accumulated substantial experience in this field through its environmental policies, institutional systems, and local development practices. A representative example is Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi in the Hokuriku region, which has been designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS). The area demonstrates integrated environmental, economic, and social improvement through sustainable natural resource management, including efforts to strengthen local resilience and recovery following the earthquake in 2024.



Satoyama and Satoumi concept has been developed in Japan that aims for harmonized co-existence of people's livelihoods and nature.

For what?

In this course, participants will acquire practical knowledge for policy making related to the development of societies in harmony with nature through sustainable natural resource management. This will be achieved by understanding Japan's environmental policies and systems, and by studying concrete cases of integrated environmental, economic, and social improvement in local areas.

For whom?

- National or local government officers, or management staff of public organizations, who are responsible for planning and implementing natural resource management
- Staff or researchers from NGOs and other institutions engaged in natural resource management

How?

Through lectures, case studies on local initiatives utilizing natural resources, and

interactive workshop-style discussions, participants shall have opportunities to identify effective approaches and strategies for sustainable natural resource management. Participants will also formulate an action plan describing concrete actions to be taken after returning to their respective organizations or countries, taking into account their local contexts and institutional capacities.

II. Description

1. Title (Course No.)

Development of Societies in Harmony with Nature through Sustainable Natural Resource Management (202515120J001)

2. Course Duration in Japan

August 20 to September 8, 2026

* Online orientation to be held at 4 PM -5 PM (JST) on July 29, 2026

3. Target Regions or Countries

Cameroon, Mauritius, and Montenegro

4. Eligible / Target Organization

- National / local governmental agencies and other organizations (NGO, Research Institutions etc.) related to natural resource management or rural development.
- Counterparts in JICA projects and JICA Volunteers in the relevant fields.

5. Capacity

3 participants

6. Language

English

7. Objective

To strengthen participants' capacity for policy formulation related to sustainable natural resource management toward societies in harmony with nature.

8. Overall Goal

Policies promoting societies in harmony with nature through sustainable natural resource management are developed and implemented.

9. Output and Contents

This course consists of the following components. Details on each component are given below.

Expected Output	Contents
To organize the current status and challenges of natural resource management and rural development utilizing natural resources in their own countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pre-course assignments and job report presentations -Country presentations and sharing of current issues and challenges - Interactive discussions and reflection sessions
To understand policies and systems related to sustainable natural resource management in Japan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lectures on central and local government policies and systems in Japan related to biodiversity strategies and sustainable natural resource management -Discussions with government officials and practitioners
To understand project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation methods through case studies of rural development utilizing natural resources in local areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies on rural development initiatives utilizing natural resources, including “Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi” (GIAHS) -Field visits and exchanges with local stakeholders -Learning about planning processes, implementation structures, and evaluation approaches
To understand the support systems and partnerships available in their own countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lectures on international environmental frameworks and partnerships, such as the SATOYAMA Initiative - Exchange sessions with JICA stakeholders and past program participants - Discussions on applicable support schemes and partnership development
To develop an action plan of natural resource management in their countries based on the knowledge acquired through the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops for action plan development - Presentation of action plans and workshop-style exchange of opinions

< Tentative Program Schedule >

※The schedule is subject to change without notice.

Date	Type	Program Contents
July. 29	Online meeting	Pre-arrival Online Introductory Session - Ice-breaking activities using an online whiteboard - Overview of the program and sharing information on pre-course reports
	Self-study	Preparation and submission of pre-course assignments / Viewing of videos (JICA-produced videos on Noto earthquake recovery)
Aug. 20		Arrival in Japan
Aug. 21		Arrival briefing
	Workshop	Orientation / Introductory Workshop - Ice-breaking: sharing words from each country (including Japanese) - Country presentations (basic national data, environmental and economic conditions, policies) - Sharing individual challenges and program goals
	Lecture	Lecture on international environmental frameworks and partnerships, including the SATOYAMA Initiative
	Lecture	Lecture on Japan's environmental policies: <i>National Biodiversity Strategy</i>
	Discussion	Q&A session and dialogue with lecturers
	Dialogue	Daily reflection using an online whiteboard
Aug. 22		Self-study
Aug. 23		Travel from Tokyo to Ishikawa
Aug. 24	Lecture / Discussion	Lecture and dialogue on Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi (GIAHS)
	Field Visit / Discussion	Field visit related to Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi (GIAHS)
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Aug. 25	Lecture / Discussion	Lecture on environmental policies of Ishikawa Prefecture
	Field Visit / Dialogue	Field visit to agricultural sites implementing the Crested Ibis release program
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Aug. 26	Dialogue	Dialogue on earthquake recovery

	Field Visit / Discussion	Field visit related to earthquake recovery
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Aug. 27		Travel from Ishikawa to Toyama
	Lecture / Discussion	Lecture on environmental policies and systems of Toyama Prefecture (<i>Biodiversity Plan</i>)
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
	Presentation	Radio program (recording at Toyama City FM)
Aug. 28	Lecture / Discussion	Lecture on marine conservation policies (seagrass bed conservation)
	Field Visit / Dialogue	Field visit: seagrass conservation activities by high school students
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Aug. 29		Self-study
Aug. 30		Self-study
Aug. 31	Lecture / Discussion	Lecture on Nanto City's nature-positive community development policy (<i>Eco-Village Concept</i>)
	Field Visit / Discussion	Field visit on circular forestry and forest resource utilization (thermal energy from wood chips)
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Sept. 1	Lecture / Discussion	Tourism × Environmental Conservation Program in Gokayama, Nanto City
	Field Visit / Discussion	Field visit on observing efforts to sustain the World Heritage Suganuma settlement, including the restoration of traditional thatched-roof material forests.
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Sept. 2	Lecture / Discussion	Lecture on Kurobe River Basin Nature-Positive Project
	Field Visit / Discussion	Field visits on green infrastructure (nature-based flood control) and corporate nature-positive initiatives
	Dialogue	Daily reflection
Sept. 3	Discussion	Practice report session by former program participants
	Workshop	Overall reflection workshop for action plan development
Sept. 4	Exercise	Action plan development
	Exercise	Presentation rehearsal

Sept. 5		Self-study
Sept. 6		Self-study
Sept. 7	Presentation / Discussion	Action plan presentations and discussions
		Final evaluation meeting, closing ceremony, and farewell gathering
Sept. 8		Departure from Japan

III. 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】

Gender: 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. 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:** (a) Central or local governmental officers or management staff of public organizations who are in charge of planning and implementing natural resource management or rural development, (b) Staff or researchers from NGO or other institutions related to the field
Experience in the Relevant Field: have more than 3 years' experience in the field of natural resource management or rural development
- 2) **Educational Background:** be a graduate of university
- 3) **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)
- 4) **Health:** must be in good health to participate in the program in Japan. Participant's health and safety should be most respected. Pre-existing conditions and pregnancy may lead to health problems that were not present

prior to arriving in Japan due to stress from international travel, changes in climate, and a new living environment. In recent years, regrettable cases have occurred, including the exacerbation of symptoms after arrival and, in the case of pregnancy, stillbirth. Some participants have also incurred substantial out-of-pocket medical costs. If any of the conditions below may apply, please take a moment to consider whether to participate, and continue after confirming your agreement to the points below.

① Questionnaire

(“QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS AND RESTRICTION”)

If any of the following apply, you must state them accurately in the questionnaire, even if they do not affect your current work or daily life.

- a. Chronic diseases (e.g., hypertension, diabetes)
- b. Conditions currently under treatment
- c. Past illnesses that have resolved (including serious conditions affecting the heart, liver, or brain; tuberculosis, etc.)
- d. Pregnancy (for female applicants)

② Medical certificate

Please submit a medical certificate issued by a doctor that your condition is stable and that, from a medical standpoint, there is no problem with your participation in KCCP in Japan.

Applicable cases:

- a. Chronic diseases (e.g., hypertension, diabetes)
- b. Conditions currently under treatment
- c. Past illnesses that have resolved (including serious conditions affecting the heart, liver, or brain; tuberculosis, etc.)

③ Reporting changes

If pregnancy or any health issues are identified after submitting the form, please report them to JICA promptly.

④ Insurance coverage

Medical and additional living expenses related to pregnancy and pre-existing conditions are NOT covered by insurance arranged by JICA. Such costs must be borne entirely by the participant; JICA assumes no liability.

* Please understand that insurance coverage applies only to sudden illness or injury occurring during your stay in Japan.

* Medical expenses in Japan could be a significant financial burden when not covered by insurance.

(2) Recommended Qualifications

- 1) Age: between the ages of twenty-five (25) and fifty (50) years

- 2) 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.

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

*It is recommended that your passport be valid for more than 6 months after the last day of the program.

(3) English Score Sheet: to be submitted with the application form, if the nominees have any official English examination scores. (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS)

(4) Questionnaire: to be submitted with the application form. Fill in Annex XX of this General Information.

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 July 10, 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

(3) Notice of Acceptance

The JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan) will notify the results **not later than July 20, 2026.**

5. Additional Document(s) to Be Submitted by Accepted Candidates

Accepted candidates are required to submit a Job Report on the main issues related to the relevant field in their home country. Detailed information will be provided later.

6. 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 any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, 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 "5. Expenses", "IV. 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 promptly notify JICA in the case that there are any changes in the health

status since the time of application (such as changes requiring medical attention due to illness or discovery of pregnancy).

IV. Administrative Arrangements

1. Organizer (JICA Center in Japan)

(1) **Center:** JICA Hokuriku Center (JICA Hokuriku)

2. Program Officer: Ms. FURUYA Risa (Furuya.Risa@jica.go.jp)

Ms. TAKEDA Misato (Takeda.Misato@jica.go.jp)

3. Implementing Partner

(1) **Name :**Platform of Environmental Citizenship TOYAMA (PEC TOYAMA)
Tagayasu Inc.

(2) **URL:** <https://www.pectoyama.org/>(in Japanese)

<https://tgys.co.jp/> (in Japanese)

4. Travel to Japan

(1) **Air Ticket:** In principle, JICA will arrange an economy-class round-trip ticket between an international airport designated by JICA and Japan.

(2) **Travel Insurance:** Coverage is from time of arrival up to departure in Japan. Thus, traveling time outside Japan (include damaged baggage during the arrival flight to Japan) will not be covered.

5. Accommodation in Japan

Basically, JICA will arrange the following accommodation(s) for the participants in Japan:

In Tokyo: JICA Tokyo Center (JICA TOKYO)

Address: 2-49-5 Nishihara, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0066, Japan

TEL: +81-3-3485-7051

(where “81” is the country code for Japan, and “3” is the local area code)

Please refer to facility guide of JICA TOKYO at its URL,

<https://www.jica.go.jp/tokyo/english/office/index.html>

In Hokuriku region (Ishikawa and Toyama): hotel (TBD)

If there is no vacancy at JICA TOKYO, JICA will arrange alternative accommodation(s) for the participants.

6. 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 “KENSHU-IN GUIDEBOOK,” (English/French/Spanish/Russian).

*Link to the Website:

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/tech_pro/acceptance_training/forparticipants.html or
<https://jica-van-cms.jica.go.jp/custom/kccp/kccp01.html>

7. 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.

*YouTube of "Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan" and "Introduction of JICA Center" are viewable from the link below.

Image videos of 'Introduction of JICA Center (YouTube)' show the following information of JICA Centers: Location, Building, Entrance, Reception (Front desk), Lobby, Office, Accommodation (Room), Amenities (Hand dryer), Bathroom (Shower and Toilet), Toiletries, Restaurant, Laundry Room (Washing machine, Iron), ICT Room (Computer for participants), Clinic, Cash dispenser, Gym, Neighborhood

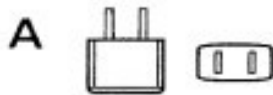
Part I: Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan	
English ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLurfKugrEw
French ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2yU9ISYcTY
Spanish ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7l-WIQSDjl
Russian ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7_ujz37AQc
Arabic ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iBQqdpXQb4
Part II: Introduction of JICA Centers in Japan	
JICA Tokyo	https://www.jica.go.jp/tokyo/english/office/index.html
JICA Hokuriku	https://www.jica.go.jp/hokuriku/english/office/index.html

V. Other Information

1. Personal computer

Participants should bring a personal computer (Laptop Computer) to prepare and/or revise report and Action Plan.

As Japanese electric outlet is Type-A, if the participants would like to bring own computer, it is necessary to bring a Type-A adaptor also. Japanese voltage is 100V, frequency is 50/60Hz.



2. Things to bring

Participants should bring about 200 US dollars because it takes a few days for you to be able to withdraw the allowance in Japan.

You will send a big luggage (suitcase) when you move from Tokyo to Hokuriku by bullet train, so please be prepared to divide your luggage into two pieces.

3. Wear

It is recommended for participants to bring umbrella or rain jacket.

Please bring formal wear for ceremony. It depends on you whether you bring ethnic costume or suits as formal wear.

4. Climate in Hokuriku region

MONTHLY AVERAGES												
Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average Temperature(C)	3.7	3.6	6.5	12.2	16.9	20.9	25.1	26.6	22.2	16.7	11.3	6.5
Highs(C)	6.8	6.7	10.5	16.6	21.4	24.5	28.7	30.4	26	21	15.3	10
Lows(C)	0.8	0.6	2.7	7.9	12.6	17.7	22.2	23.1	19	13	7.4	3.2
Precipitation(mm)	266	184	153	143	154	193	226	164	241	188	267	287

* 0 C = 32F (F = 9/5C+32) --- 10 C = 50 F --- 20 C = 68 F --- 30 C = 86 F

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.



Contact Information for Inquiries

For inquiries and further information, please contact the JICA overseas office or the Embassy of Japan. Further, address correspondence to:

JICA Hokuriku Center (JICA HOKURIKU)