

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program)

General Information on

JFY2026

**Core Human Resource Development
for Road Asset Management**

「道路アセットマネジメント中核人材育成プログラム（2026 年度）」

This handout provides an overview of the “Core Human Resource Development for Road Asset Management ” program/course, which is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). The program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between respective governments.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. Background

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet revised 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.

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

Japan is the very first country and still is one of the very few countries that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. With such belief, JICA invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan under KCCP, and offers them opportunity to learn about Japan's unique modernization and development experiences. This special program is called, JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP).

JICA-DSP is provided to all participants of KCCP during their stay in Japan. JICA will offer participants various opportunities through which they can learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/dsp-chair/index.html>

1. Overview

Until now, JICA has provided training programs as a part of technical cooperation in various fields. In order to strengthen networks between the target countries in respective fields, JICA established a new long-term training program to foster young/middle-aged bureaucrats, academicians and leading human resources in various fields of target countries who are capable of influencing policy making processes in their countries or contributing to socioeconomic development in the near future.

In Japan, amid the aging of infrastructures, emerging risk of a serious accident and the increase in maintenance and repair expenditures are topics of concern. Currently, infrastructures are being constructed across developing countries; however, maintenance has already become a big issue. Systematic infrastructure management utilizing new technologies is essential both for preventing accidents based on preventive maintenance system and minimizing life cycle cost of infrastructures under the conditions of the tight financial grounds and the decreasing number of skilled engineers. Particularly, technologies that utilize the world's most advanced ICT (Information and Communication Technology) are expected to create new business opportunities in the existing infrastructure maintenance market and to offer business expansion opportunities into developing countries that will face similar problems in the near future. Not only developed countries but also developing countries will improve the standard of maintenance by using low-cost preventive maintenance while stressing the necessity to match the needs of infrastructure maintenance with the seeds of technical development and developing new technologies into more attractive technologies that can be used on-site. Infrastructures should function for several decades.

We aim at contributing to regional revitalization, as well as maintaining the important internal infrastructures to high standard while backing up a variety of regional economic activities. Our responsibility to the future is to create an infrastructure information platform and to pass on the infrastructures that can be used safely with a minimum maintenance burden to the next generation

Road Asset Management Platform (RAMP)

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/thematic_issues/transportation/ramp/index.html

The program/course will offer participants with special curriculums on Japanese developmental experience (JICA-DSP) and internships, if necessary, in addition to obtaining a Master's or PhD. degree.

2. Objectives

- (1) To develop high level human resources who are capable of contributing to appropriate policy decisions and its implementation for tackling political and developmental issues in respective fields.
- (2) To foster young leaders of governmental officials, educators and researchers who

contribute to the road asset management in developing countries. This program offers opportunities for such personnel to study at graduate courses for master's degree / doctorate degree in Japanese graduate schools as international students (hereafter referred to as participants).

Beyond acquisition of skills and knowledge, this program also aims to have the participants understand and familiarize themselves with Japanese culture and systems. The expected outcome of the program is to develop a network of potential contributors to the road asset management in the development countries.

(3) To establish and maintain mid and long-term amicable relationships between target countries and Japan.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of scholars from 5 countries from Southeast Asia and Pacific, 5 countries from East Asia and Central Asia, 5 countries from South Asia, 5 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, 18 countries from Africa, and 2 countries from Middle East and Europe. 40 countries in total.

Southeast Asia and Pacific	Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea
East Asia and Central Asia	Mongolia, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan
South Asia	Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India
Latin America and the Caribbean	El Salvador, Chile, Cuba, Honduras, Bolivia
Africa	Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Djibouti, Guinea
Middle East and Europe	Egypt, Tunisia

This handout provides information related to long-term courses including master's degree courses, Ph.D. courses, and combined master's and Ph.D. courses.

Proposed research topics should consist of subjects that contribute to government policies on sustainable development

In addition to curriculums of the master's and Ph.D. courses, activities such as short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience), and/or will be planned to enrichen the participants' academic and personal experience of their courses of studies at the universities.

Accepted applicants are recommended to participate in internship programs at public or

private entities during their stay in Japan. JICA will prepare the contents and schedule of the internship in close consultation with the participants and host organizations. In principle, no reward or compensation should be paid to the participants or host organizations.

Target Participants

This program is designed for the following two types of personnel.

Governmental Officials (Technocrats)	Technocrats who take part in policy making and administration related to road asset management in central/regional government, governmental research institutions or other related public organizations in the road asset management sector.
Educators/Researchers	Individuals who are responsible for education and research in the road asset management sector in Higher Education and research institutions in target countries.

Candidates are to be nominated by Japanese related Organizations and Universities to further the program's aim of development of the road asset management sector in each country.

4. Duration

In principle, 2 years for master's course and 3 years for Ph.D. course (depending on the program offered by universities).

Master's Degree Course Participant	From: End of March 2027 To: End of March 2029 (minimum) – End of Sep. 2029 (maximum) - 6 Months as a Research Student if necessary - 2 years as a master's course student
Doctorate Degree Course Participant	From: End of March 2027 To: End of March 2030 (minimum) – End of Sep. 2030 (maximum) - 6 Months as a Research Student if necessary - 3 years as a doctoral course student

The following is a list of universities with enrollment of current and former participants under this program. Host universities for JFY2026 will be determined in the selection process.

- Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Engineering
- Kitami Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Engineering

- Tohoku University, Graduate School of Engineering
- Nihon University, Graduate School of Engineering
- University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Engineering
- Shibaura Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Engineering and Science
- Gifu University, Graduate School of Engineering / Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology
- Nagoya University, Graduate School of Engineering
- Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Engineering
- Kanazawa University, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology
- Nagoya University, Graduate School of Engineering
- Osaka University, Graduate School of Engineering
- Kobe University, Graduate School of Engineering
- Hiroshima University, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering
- Kochi University of Technology, Graduate School of Engineering
- Nagasaki University, Graduate School of Engineering
- University of the Ryukyus, Graduate School of Engineering and Science

Research themes of former / current participants

https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/activities/issues/transport/ramp/ku57pq00002mfxkm-att/research_theme_list.pdf

5. Number of Participants

Total Number of Participants will be determined around August 2026.

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Candidate applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) Current Duties: young or middle-career government officials, prospective academics, who are expected to contribute policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in respective fields. Candidates must have at least 3 years of professional field is necessary.
※ In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance
- (2) Nationality: citizen of the above countries eligible for Japan's ODA
- (3) Age:
Less than (40) years of age is preferable

(4) Educational Background:
for master's programs, a bachelor's degree or master's Degree holder, at least 16 years of academic background or equivalent
for Ph.D. programs, a master's degree holder, at least 18 years of academic background or equivalent

(5) Language: adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master's and/or Ph.D. courses.

(6) Physical Presence: must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.

(7) 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.

(8) Others: must not be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships from Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program during the program.

8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree or Ph.D. degree course.

9. Application Guidelines

Candidate applicants must apply through the procedures as described below, which are necessary requirements by both applicant's Government and the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance.

(1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:
Each applicant is required to submit the "Application Documents listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

(2) Application Documents

- Personal Information
- Educational Background
- Present Organization and Nomination
- Work Experience
- Declaration (Terms and Conditions needed to be agreed by candidate applicants)
- Research Plan (Annex 2)
- Career Plan (Annex 2)

2) Graduation certificate.

- * Officially certified copies of the original
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation

3) Academic transcript

- * Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the applicant
- * Officially certified copies of the original transcript
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English

4) Photocopy of certificate of English Test

5) A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).

6) 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy)

7) Health certificate (must be submitted with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of your country at the applicants' expense, no later than October 31, 2026. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after October 1 2026)

***If you have any difficulties/disabilities which require assistance, please specify necessary assistances in the Medical History(1-(c)) for JICA to prepare better logistics or alternatives.**

(3) Procedures in General

Based on the above documents, candidate applicants are nominated and approved by their country's government and later approved by JICA. After this procedure, screening will be conducted at the universities chosen by the applicant.

Please kindly note that universities may reject the applicant's application when the required documents, or the submitted research plan is not accepted by the universities.

Candidate applicants must follow each university's application procedure after the screening. If the applicants withdraw their applications after their official applications to the universities, applicants must inform their withdrawal to the university by letter.

(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

- 1) Fees for English proficiency test can be reimbursed only within the same Japanese fiscal year (from 1st April to 31st March of the next year) when the general entrance examinations are taken. Details of the reimbursement vary by each area and should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office of each candidate.

JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall make a decision on acceptance or rejection based on several factors such as entrance examination results, planned number of participants, medical examination results and others. Reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

10. Schedule

Selection processes are planned as follows despite the possibility of changes:

- By the end of March 2026: Submit candidate information to JICA office (See ‘**9. Application Documents**’ for more details)
- April 2026: Pre-screening will be held based on candidate information (tentative decision of host university)
- May 2026: JICA headquarters will share candidate information with prospective universities, and each supervisor will consider the candidates who are willing to do a web consultation.
- June-August 2026: Web consultation (supervisors will conduct interviews with candidates, brushing up research plans, inspection of maintenance sites, etc.)
- August 2026: Candidates are determined by university, and candidates will start application preparation
- August -December 2026: Application and entrance examination for University Admission
- November 2026-February 2027: Announcement to the successful candidates after final selection by JICA
- March-April 2027: departure to Japan for enrollment

11. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

Under the JICA Long-term Trainee Allowance standards, JICA will cover expenses and allowance to participants accepted to the program/course. See the table below for further details. Note that the payments (e.g., for tuition, research support expenses, school support expenses) will not be paid to the accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
Tuition (examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance	JPY 143,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY100,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance***	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period)**
Research Support Expenses****	Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year)	
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).	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.

***Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

****Research Support Expenses are allowed to be provided via the university and be disbursed with the consultation and approval of the applicant's supervisor.

12. Expenses Not To Be Borne By JICA

JICA will not bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA is not responsible for the following expenses:

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa
- (4) Domestic travel expenses at the applicant's home country
- (5) Departure tax
- (6) Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7) Customs duty
- (8) Excess baggage charges
- (9) Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10) "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Lost - ticket fee
- (12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel in return flight
- (13) Transportation expenses other than official programs
- (14) Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
- (15) Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment
- (16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180days
- (17) National Health Insurance fee

Note: If participant / accepted applicant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other costs of necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation

The applicants/participants of KCCP are required

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
- (2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
- (3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
- (4) to understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,

- (5) to return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,
- (6) 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,
- (7) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so.
- (8) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),
- (9) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (10) to agree to be discontinued of the program, should the participant (a) violate Japanese laws, JICA's regulations, or University's regulations, (b) commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, (c) become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan.
- (11) to be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
- (12) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (13) not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (14) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (15) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
- (16) to accept that 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,
- (17) to submit a Health Certificate with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of your country at the applicants' expense, no later than October 31 2026. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after October 1 2026. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.
- (18) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if deemed necessary by JICA. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA unless it is required due to the candidates' fault.
- (19) to promptly resubmit your medical history, If there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease.
- (20) to be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when consulting the doctor for your Health Certificate,
- (21) not to be receiving nor plan to receive another scholarships from Japanese government,

such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program

- (22) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time,
- (23) to understand that the maximum duration of “Overseas research” and “Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)” is 60 days, in principle.
- (24) to accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university.
- (25) to approve the following conditions on summary of my thesis;
 - ① Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
 - ② Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
 - ③ Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
 - ④ Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA’s permission.
- (26) to acknowledge that a leave of absence from school is not permitted in principle,
- (27) to understand that the maximum duration of research student is 6 months for both master's and doctor's courses, and duration of acceptance as a regular student is based on the course years determined by the university,
- (28) To indicate all educational background, including currently enrolled university, if any.
- (29) To understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application Forms including Research Plans, and your research papers may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if discovered, according to each University policy.



CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact your nearest JICA office.