

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term Training)

General Information for ALL Applicants on Core Human Resource Development for Road Asset Management (JFY2022)

国別研修（長期）
「道路アセットマネジメント中核人材育成プログラム」

This information pertains to one of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term Training). This program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both governments.

1. Background

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 ICRT (Information and Communication Technology, & Information and Robot 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

2. Objectives

The objective of the Core Human Resource Development for Road Asset Management is 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. Program Outline

- (1) Program Title: **Core Human Resource Development for Road Asset Management**
- (2) Language of the Program: **English**
- (3) Contents of the Program

<p>Research Student Program (6 months)</p>	<p>Research students are part-time students who utilize their time to prepare for the entrance examination of graduate course students. Research students are able to participate in lectures, receive instruction from the supervising professors and make use of university's facilities.</p> <p>The maximum period for being a research student is six months in principle. Participants are required to prepare for entrance examination of the respective graduate course.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants who failed entrance examination will be required to return to their home countries. 2. Necessity of research student program will be considered based on interviews with professors of respective Japanese universities.
<p>Graduate Course Program (2 or 3 years)</p>	<p>Master's degree course / Doctorate degree course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture and practice - Research works for the thesis - Field research in Japan and/or home country <p>* Field research is to be planned in accordance with the research theme and upon consultation with the supervising professor.</p>

4. Duration

<p>Master's Degree Course Participant</p>	<p>From: End of March 2023</p> <p>To: End of March 2025 (minimum) – End of Sep. 2025 (maximum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Months as a Research Student if necessary - 2 years as a master's course student
<p>Doctorate Degree Course Participant</p>	<p>From: End of March 2023</p> <p>To: End of March 2026 (minimum) – End of Sep. 2026 (maximum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Months as a Research Student if necessary - 3 years as a doctoral course student

5. Target Countries

Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Mongolia, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Egypt, Chile, El Salvador

6. 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.

7. Numbers of Participants

Total Number of Participants will be determined around August 2022.

8. List of Japanese Universities for Former Participants

The following is a list of universities with enrollment of current and former participants under this program. Host universities for JFY2022 will be determined in the selection process.

- Graduate School of Engineering, Gifu University
http://www.eng.gifu-u.ac.jp/index_e.html
- Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Gifu University
<http://gnst.gifu-u.ac.jp/e/>
- Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University
<https://www.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/english/>
- Graduate School of Engineering, Kanazawa Institute of Technology
<http://www.kanazawa-it.ac.jp/ekit/education/curriculum/graduate/index.html#engineering>
- Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Kanazawa University
<https://www.nst.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/eng/>
- Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki University
<http://www.eng.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>
- Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University
<https://www.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/>
- Division of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering and Science, Shibaura Institute of Technology
<http://www.constr.shibaura-it.ac.jp/constr/en/>
- Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
<http://www.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/soee/index.html>
- Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University
<https://www.eng.tohoku.ac.jp/english/>
- Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus
<https://www.tec.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/en/science>

- Master's Course in Civil and Environmental Engineering / Cold Regions, Environmental and Energy Engineering, Kitami Institute of Technology
<https://www.kitami-it.ac.jp/en/>

Research themes of former / current participants

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/thematic_issues/transportation/ramp/c8h0vm0000f9w3sf-att/ramp_04.pdf

9. Additional Programs for the participants

Every participant need to participate in custom made programs to improve practical abilities, construction of networks, deepen understanding of Japanese Road Asset Management activities through a visit of Japanese local government, highway company, research institute and private company. Internship Program at related institutions also can be provided. All the programs will be held during the vacation period. All programs are carried out in English. Cost to attend the program will be borne by JICA.

10. Application Qualifications and Requirements

Applicants shall satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	Citizens of the target countries
(2) Age	- Less than forty (40) years of age (as of April 1 st , 2022)
(3) Education	For Master's degree course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 16 years of academic background or equivalent - A bachelor's degree For Doctorate degree course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 18 years of academic background or equivalent - A Master's degree
(4) Working Experience /Status	Applicants from government sectors / universities/research institutions are required; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to have 2-3 years working experience at road asset management sector, and - - to obtain permission for application and securing reinstatement from their current organizations.
(5) English Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate English proficiency, both in written and oral communication, in order to complete the master's/ doctoral degree. - Some universities require an English proficiency score such as TOEFL, IELTS, or TOEIC. So taking a higher score before its application is desirable. Please also read the '14. Expenses to be borne by JICA' for taking English proficiency exams.

<p>(6) Understanding of the Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants are required to have clear understanding of the objectives of the Program will to contribute to the development of the road asset management sector in their home countries as well as to strengthen the linkage between their countries and Japan after returning home country.
<p>(7) Others</p>	<p>Applicants must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be both physically and mentally fit for the program, - not be receiving nor applying for scholarship offered by other organizations, <p>Applicants might be required to attend the activities on the weekends/ holidays in unavoidable circumstances (ex. official exam).</p> <p>Female participants are encouraged to apply for the program.</p>

11. Procedures and Required Documents for Application

Each applicant is required to submit the following documents by the deadline set by JICA Office in the applicants' country.

<p>Application Documents</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Application Form consists of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal Information ▪ Educational Background ▪ Work Experiences (2) Statement of Purpose (Free Format) (3) Research Plan (Free Format) (4) Undergraduate degree graduation certificate/ Master's degree completion certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Officially certified copies of the original. * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English. (5) Academic transcript <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Must contain all the grades earned in the university. * Officially certified copies of the original. * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English. (6) A copy of valid Passport with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth. National ID and birth certificate are acceptable if you do not have valid Passport. Certified English translation must be attached if ID is not written in English) (7) ID Photo (8) Score of English proficiency examination See '10. Application Qualifications, (4) English Proficiency' (9) Health certificate to be submitted after the Selection
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12. Application Period

A series of documents shall be submitted to JICA office in your country by the end of March, 2022.

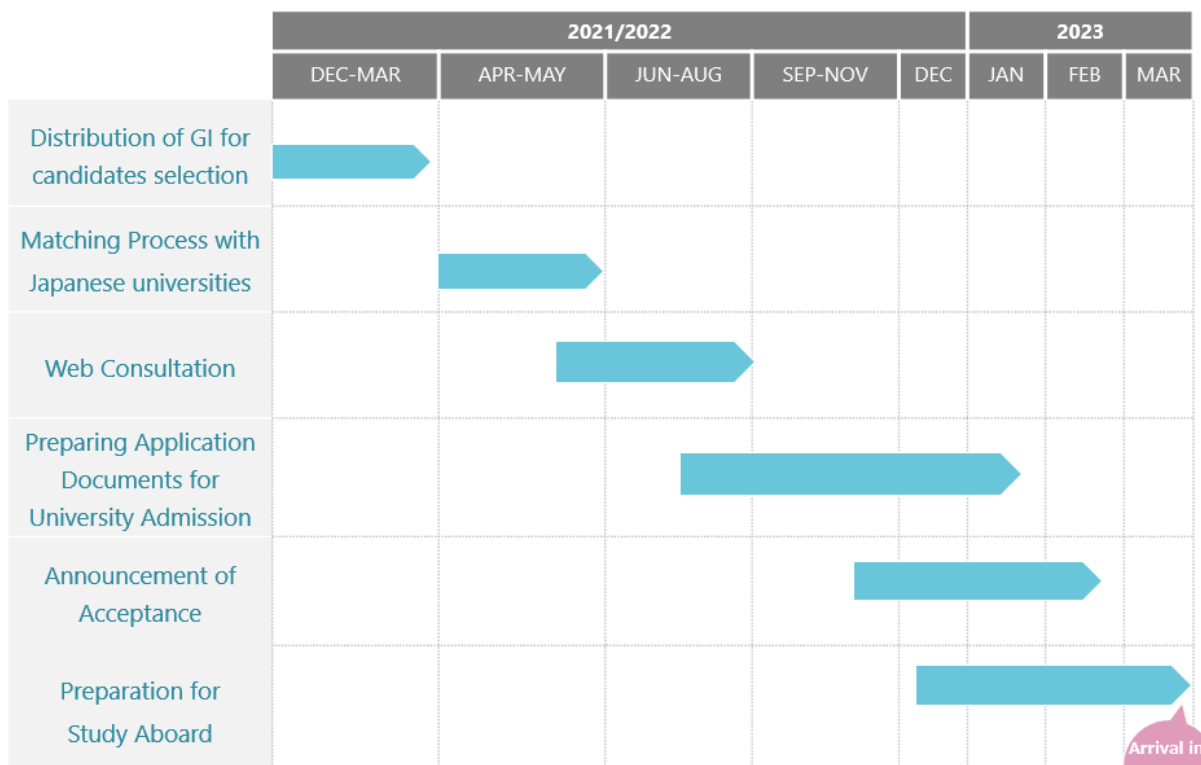
13. Selection Procedures

* The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.

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

- By the end of March 2022: Submit candidate information to JICA office (See ‘11. Application Documents’ for more details)
- April 2022: JICA headquarters will share candidate information with prospective universities, and each supervisor will consider accepting candidates
- May 2022: Pre-screening will be held based on candidate information (tentative decision of host university), and web consultation country for each supervisor will be decided.
- June-August 2022: Web consultation (supervisors will conduct interviews with candidates, brushing up research plans, inspection of maintenance sites, etc.)
- August 2022: Candidates are determined by university, and candidates will start application preparation
- August -December 2022: Application and entrance examination for University Admission
- November-February 2023: Announcement of entrance examination results
- March-April 2023: Study abroad in Japan for enrollment

Selection Schedule



※ Schedule can be changed due to COVID-19 situations.



14. Expenses to be borne by JICA

JICA will provide the following expenses for participants in the program.

- When English proficiency test score such as TOEFL, IELTS, or TOEIC is required for application to university, fee for taking a test would be provided after consulting with JICA office.
- A round-trip airfare (actual cost paid to travel agencies)
- Fee for Official Entrance Examination Fee/ Admission/ Tuition Fee (actual cost paid to universities)
- Outfit allowance (general outfit and shipping) (fixed amount)
- Monthly Stipend: living costs and residence, etc. (fixed amount)
- Expenses for support programs during the study in Japan, including the costs of observation tours and internship (actual cost paid to universities, etc.)

(Notes)

*Please see “Handbook for Knowledge Co-Creation Program for All JICA Scholarship Courses” for specific amount of each item. The amount will be revised every year.

*Other costs should be covered by the participants’ organizations or other individuals.

*Participants are not allowed to work during their stay in Japan.

*To invite family to Japan (spouse and children only), participants should be responsible for all expenses, necessary procedure by themselves. JICA does not provide any support or additional financial assistance except issuing necessary documents for the process. JICA strongly recommend participants invite their family AFTER 6 MONTHS upon arrival in Japan.

15. Annex

Annex 1. Application Form

Annex 2. Check List