Knowledge Co-Creation Program
(Group & Region Focus)

General information on

Continuum of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and UHC
課題別研修「母子継続ケアと UHC」
JFY 2026

Course No.: 202514979J001

Course Period in Japan: From January 25th , 2027 to February 12th, 2027

Online Follow-up Program: March 18th and 19th, 2027

Accepted on 29 October 2025 11:34 AM

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

Improving maternal and child health is central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, yet inequities in access to quality information and health services persist. Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) requires strong Primary Health Care (PHC) systems that ensure equitable access to essential services, including a well-functioning Continuum of Care (CoC) for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH).

Japan offers a notable example of progress in this area. Its achievements have been supported by universal health insurance, a strong legal framework, and sustained community engagement. Within this broader health system, the Maternal and Child Health Handbook (MCH Handbook) has played a significant role in enhancing parental awareness on pregnancy, delivery, child rearing, strengthened communication with health professionals, enabled early detection for timely interventions.

Building on such experience in Japan, JICA developed "Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Cluster Strategy" which prioritizes MNCH to ensure that all women and children utilize quality CoC services and receive adequate care at home and in the community.

This course introduces the CoC for MNCH and UHC through four health system building blocks: Service Delivery, Health Financing, Human Resources, and Leadership & Governance- and examines the role of the MCH Handbook/Home-based records (HBRs). Through series of lectures, discussions, site visits, and cross country experience sharing, the participants will identify priority actions and develop plans tailored to the country's challenges to improve CoC for MNCH and advance UHC in collaboration with stakeholders at various levels.

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For what?

This program aims to strengthen CoC for MNCH which will ultimately contribute to the progress towards UHC.

For whom?

This program is designed for program managers of national or local government organizations (GO) responsible for planning/designing MNCH programs.

* This course is **NOT** a clinical training program.

How?

1 By understanding the overview of CoC and UHC (four components of health system building blocks: a. Service Delivery; b. Health Financing; c. Human Resources; and d. Leadership & Governance).

2 By understanding the roles of the MCH Handbook/HBRs and the strategies for utilizing them as a tool for CoC and UHC.

3 By developing the Mini Action Plan (MAP) based on the Priority Actions formulated from Output 1 and 2 described on page 5.

* *The MNCH Continuum of Care is the operational context for health programming to ensure that there is continuity of care for women and children. To improve the overall health of women and children, continuity of care is necessary throughout the life course as well as between places of caregiving.* It includes the seamless and integrated service delivery from pre-pregnancy to delivery, the immediate postnatal period and childhood, and across all places of care, including families and communities, outpatient services, clinics, and other health facilities. Programs range from comprehensive MNCH efforts on both the demand and supply sides of primary health care to community-based activities that are focused mainly on the promotion of improved health practices and care-seeking behavior.

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II Description

1 Title (Course No.)

Continuum of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and UHC (202514979J001)

2 Course Duration in Japan

From January 25th, 2027 to February 12th, 2027
Online Follow-up Program: March 18th and 19th, 2027 (*A date for the online connection check will be scheduled on 11th March or 12th March)

3 Target Regions or Countries

Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tajikista

4 Eligible / Target Organization

This course is designed for the staff of the Ministry of Health at the national level, Regional Health Offices (RHO) and local government agencies responsible for developing and implementing the policies related to MNCH and UHC

5 Capacity

7 participants

6 Language

English

7 Objective(s)

To enhance participants' capacity to develop and implement a Mini Action Plan (MAP) to strengthen the Continuum of Care (CoC) for MNCH, thereby contributing to progress toward UHC, based on an analysis of priority actions in their respective countries.

8 Overall Goal

This program aims to strengthen Continuum of Care (CoC) for MNCH thereby contributing to progress towards UHC.

9 Output and Contents

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

(1) **Preliminary Phase (between December 18th, 2026, to January 7th, 2027)** *Participants are to prepare and submit Inception Report*	
Modules	Activities
Output 0 To develop a situation analysis report (Inception Report).	Formulating and submitting Inception Report to identify the existing issues/achievements/lessons learned from the CoC for MNCH and UHC of the participant's country. ✧ *Format of the Inception Report will be sent* to accepted candidates later.

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(2) **Core Phase in Japan** Main Program Period in Japan: From January 25th to February 12th, 2027 Online Follow-up Program: March 18th and 19th, 2027		
Modules	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
Output 1 To understand the overview of CoC and UHC (four components of health system building blocks)	a. Service Delivery with Equity and Quality – Integration of maternal, newborn, and child health services – Ensuring quality and patient-centered care b. Financial protection to ensure CoC and UHC (Health Financing) – Sustainable funding and resource allocation – Financial protection and risk pooling c. Human resource to ensure CoC and UHC – Workforce planning and capacity building – Task shifting and team-based care d. Leadership and governance to ensure CoC and UHC – Policy development and strategic planning – Accountability and stakeholder coordination	Lectures, discussions Observations
Output 2 To understand roles of the MCH Handbooks/Home-based Records and the strategies for utilizing them as a tool for CoC and UHC	• MCH Handbook/HBRs as a tool for CoC and UHC • MCH Handbook -How to initiate effective utilization and sustainable implementation of the MCH Handbook	Lectures, discussions Observations
Output 3 Develop the Mini Action Plan (MAP) based on Priority Actions formulated from Output 1 and 2 aiming at universal MNCH coverage towards UHC.	• Sharing of Inception Report (Issues/ challenges and good practices) • Identification of the "Priority Action areas" • Analysis of the "Priority Action areas" • Development of the MAP	Discussions, group-work, presentation

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(3) **Online Follow-up Phase (March 18th and 19th, 2027)** *All Participants are to prepare and submit the Follow-up Report*	
Modules	Activities
To develop a MAP follow-up report	Formulating and submitting a Follow-up Report on the MAP to identify the achievements, challenges and lessons learned ✧ *Format of the follow-up Report will be shared during the course in Japan.*

1 Online Session: March 18th and 19th, 2027

All the participants are expected to participate in the online follow-up session as scheduled after the in-Japan programs. Attendance on both 2 days is required to receive the course certificate.

* All the participants are also expected to take part in the online connection check before the online follow-up session to ensure attendance for the final two-day online program.

【NOTE】Please notify the JICA officer in charge of your country of your connection setup and location prior to the online connection check. If you cannot secure an internet connection or required devices, please contact the JICA office in charge of your country.

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Online Session Timetable

Participants are recommended to attend the session **on a computer, not a smartphone or tablet**.

Country (including additional allocations)	Time (Japan time 17:00– 19:30)
Côte d'Ivoire	08:00 – 10:30
Ghana	08:00 – 10:30
Indonesia	15:00 – 17:30
Pakistan	13:00 – 15:30
Sierra Leone	08:00 – 10:30
Tajikistan	13:00 – 15:30

2 Assignments

All the Participants are required to submit assignments strictly following the due date as indicated below.

Further information will be provided to accepted candidates later.

Assignment	Schedule (submission due date)
Inception Report	January 8th, 2027
Mini Action Plan	February 12th, 2027
Mini Action Plan Progress report	March 17th, 2027

3 Attendance Requirement

Participation in all in-Japan and online programs is an essential requirement for the completion of the course. Partial attendance is not allowed.

4 Tentative Schedule (Subject to change)

Date	Program	Location
Jan. 23, 2027	Arrival in Japan	Tokyo, Japan
Jan. 25	Briefing and Orientation	Tokyo
Jan. 25-30	• Continuum of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and UHC (4 pillars of Health system building blocks: a. Service Delivery, b. Health Financing, c. Human Resources, d. Leadership & Governance) • Global trend and JICA's MNCH Cluster Strategies • Japan's experiences in MNCH • Roles and functions of MCH Handbook/HBRs • Sharing of "Inception Reports"	Tokyo
Jan. 31 - Feb. 5	Field Trip • Leadership and governance/ Roles of local health administration • Health/ MNCH strategies and services by the local government (Iwate prefecture/ NIshiwaga Town - former Sawauchi Village)	Iwate
Feb. 6-12	• Community Health Volunteer for CoC of MNCH • Respectful maternity care in perinatal hospital • Global perspective, health system strengthening and MNCH • Analysis of Priority Actions	Tokyo

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	• Development of the Mini Action Plan (MAP), Presentation	
Feb. 13	Departure from Japan	-
Mar. 11-12	Online Connection Check Test	Online
Mar. 18	Online Follow Up Program 1	Online
Mar. 19	Online Follow Up Program 2	Online

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III Eligibility and Procedures

1 Expectations to the Applying Organizations

(1) This program 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 the purpose.

(2) This program is enriched with contents and facilitation schemes specially developed in collaboration with relevant prominent organizations in Japan. These special features enable the program to meet specific requirements of applying organizations and effectively facilitate them toward solutions for the issues and problems.

(3) As this program is designed to facilitate organizations to come up with specific solutions for their issues, participating organizations are expected to make preparation before starting of this program by carrying out the activities of the Preliminary Phase described in section II-9 (1).

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2 Nominee Qualifications

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

(1) **Essential Qualifications**

1) Current Duties: hold a position as an administrator of GO responsible for planning/designing MNCH programs who can set aside sufficient time for participation in the program.
2) Professional Background: have a minimum of three (3) years' experience in MNCH administration and will work in the same area after this program.
3) Educational Background: be a graduate of university
4) Language Proficiency: be proficient in spoken and written English
5) 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.

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(2) **Recommended Qualifications**

1) Age: between the ages of thirty (30) and fifty (50) years
2) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Women are encouraged to apply for the program. 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) Related to JICA projects: Staff or members of counterpart organizations of JICA past and on-going technical cooperation projects in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health.

(3) **Expected requirements specific for the online session**

1) Must obtain official permission from the applicant's superior (in written form) to allow the participant to fully commit and participate in the course (to avoid the participant by being disturbed from being appointed to sudden duties)
2) Hardware: PC with speaker/microphone and web camera
3) Software: Zoom, Google Chrome, Google applications (Gmail), Microsoft Excel, Word and Power Point
4) Internet Access/Connection: speed enough to use the software as shown in 2)
5) Time availability: Required to join all the live sessions shown on page 6.

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 forms.

It may allow us (people concerned in this course) to prepare better logistics or alternatives.

(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 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 Tokyo Center in Japan** by **November27th, 2026**)

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(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.

This course requires English language skills to be able to understand and discuss the content of the lectures. There is the English skill check by online or telephone during the selection process.

(3) Notice of Acceptance

The JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan) will notify the results **not later than December 11th, 2026.**

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

Inception Report to be submitted by January 8th, 2027.

Accepted candidates are required to prepare Inception report. Further information will be provided to accepted candidates 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,

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(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 "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.

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IV Administrative Arrangements

1 Organizer (JICA Center in Japan)

(1) Center: JICA Tokyo Center (JICA TOKYO)

(2) Program Officer: Mr. INAO, Toshitaka (ticthddoc@jica.go.jp)

Please add the course title and course number "**202514979J001**"in the subject line of your e-mail.

2 Implementing Partner

(1) Name: Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

(2) Contact: Ms. ASAMURA Lisa (lasamura@joicfp.or.jp), JOICFP

(3) URL: https://www.joicfp.or.jp/eng/

(4) Remark: Founded in 1968, JOICFP is a Japan based NGO, active in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality and women's empowerment where it works to improve the status of women, men, and young people around the world. JOICFP focus on people-centered community-level interventions based on the lessons learned from post-war Japan. Received United Nations Population Award in 2001, Yomiuri International Cooperation Prize in 2016 and 1st SDGs Partnership Award in 2017. Holds UN ECOSOC Consultative status since 2000.

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3 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.

4 Accommodation in Japan

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

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

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

5 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).
*Link to the Website:
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/tech/acceptance/training/index.html or
https://jica-van-cms.jica.go.jp/custom/kccp/kccp01.html

6 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
Part II: Introduction of JICA Centers in Japan	
JICA Tokyo	https://www.jica.go.jp/tokyo/english/office/index.html

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V Other Information

1 Certificate

Participants who have successfully completed the program in Japan and online course will be awarded a certificate by JICA. JICA Tokyo will send by email after March 20th, 2027.

*** It is required for participants to fully participate in the program (including the two-day Online Program).**

2 Laptop Computer

Participants must bring your own laptop computers for the program in Japan. During the program, participants are required to work on the computer, including preparation of Mini Action Plans, etc. All materials are sent as data.

3 Living Expense for Several days

Allowances, such as living, clothing, and shipping will be deposited to your temporary bank account in Japan 2 to 5 days after your arrival in Japan. It is highly advised to bring some cash (which is easy to exchange) spend necessary money for the first 2 to 5 days stays after your arrival.

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VI Annex

Concept Chart JFY 2026

【Preliminary Phase】

Preliminary Phase
To develop a situation analysis report (Inception Report).

【Program in Japan】

Output 1
To understand the overview of CoC and UHC (four components of health system building blocks)

Topic 1 Service Delivery with Equity and Quality	**Topic 2** Human resource to ensure COC and UHC
Topic 3 Financial protection	**Topic 4** Leadership and governance

Output 2
To understand roles of the MCH Handbooks/Home-based Records and the strategies for utilizing them as a tool for CoC and UHC

Output 3
Develop the Mini Action Plan (MAP) based on Priority Actions formulated from Output 1 and 2 aiming at universal MNCH coverage towards UHC.

【Online Follow-up Program】

Action Sharing Phase
To develop a MAP follow-up analysis report for sharing online

Objective
To enhance participants' capacity to develop and implement a Mini Action Plan (MAP) to strengthen the Continuum of Care (CoC) of MNCH, thereby contributing to progress toward UHC, based on an analysis of priority actions in their respective countries.

Outcome
This program aims to strengthen the Continuum of Care (CoC) for MNCH, thereby contributing to progress toward UHC.

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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.

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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.

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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 Tokyo Center (JICA TOKYO)