



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders)

General information on

Maternal and Child Health

母子保健

JFY2026

Course No.: 202515999J001

Course Period in Japan: November 17, 2026 - December 5, 2026

This information pertains to one of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Young Leaders) 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

The "Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders)" is conducted by JICA (the Japan International Cooperation Agency) under a technical cooperation scheme of the Government of Japan, with the purpose of promoting human resource development in developing countries.

KCCP-Young Leaders is a program focused on building regional relationships between developing countries and Japan. Participants are also expected to build ties between their own countries and Japan through their participation in the program.

Under the program, young leaders, who will become nation-building leaders in the future, are invited to Japan for about 18 days to be provided with opportunities to:

- 1) develop their specialties through experiencing and learning technologies and skills in Japan,
- 2) increase their willingness to resolve issues on their own, and
- 3) know Japanese society and culture deeply through the program.

II. Description

1. Title (Course No.)

Maternal and Child Health (202515999J001)

2. Course Duration in Japan

November 17 to December 5, 2026

3. Target Regions or Countries

Djibouti, El Salvador, Eswatini, Gambia, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania

4. Target Group

Public health nurse, midwife, nurse in medical institution

5. Number of Participants

16 participants

6. Language

English

7. Objective(s)

Through participation in this course, the participants are expected

- (1) to acquire a basic knowledge and background of overall policies and an administrative system in the Japanese Maternal and Child Health Management system.
- (2) to exchange information and opinions on the Maternal and Child Health Management and various other issues with the concerned parties
- (3) to formulate an action plan to implement after returning home countries

8. Outline

This course consists of the following components.

- | |
|---|
| (1) Lectures regarding : <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. overall medical and nursing systems in Japanb. current situation, trend of Japanese Maternal and Child Health Management system.c. Hospital and/or related facilities situation |
| (2) Discussions with professors and students of Miyagi University. |

<Tentative Schedule of the Course>

Date	Venue	Contents
17 Nov, 2026	JICA Tokyo	Flight to Tokyo, Japan
18 Nov	JICA Tokyo	Briefing for staying in Japan Program Orientation Action Plan Guidance Move to Sendai
19 Nov	JICA Tokyo	Lecture (JICA's Maternal and Child Health Initiatives) Presentation of Job Report Discussion: Interactive session with Nursing students
20 Nov	Miyagi University	Introduction to Miyagi University Lecture (Issues of maternal and child health in Japan)
21 Nov		Observation: Ishinomaki Tsunami Ruins: Kadonowaki Elementary School Ruins Lectures (Postnatal Care Programme by Baby Smile Ishinomaki's Initiatives)
22 Nov		Home Visit
23 Nov		Japanese Cultural Experience
24 Nov	Miyagi University	Introduction to the Laboratory Training Facilities of the School of Nursing Lecture (Practices and Challenges in Pediatric Nursing in Japan)
25 Nov		Lecture and Observation (The Role of Miyagi Children's Hospital) The Role of Nobisuku Izumi Chuo (including facility tour)
26 Nov		Lecture (The Role of Administrative Systems in Healthcare Services) Lecture (Maternal and Child Healthcare at Japanese Red Cross Sendai Hospital)
27 Nov		Activities of community midwives (parenting classes, adolescent health education)

		Lecture and Observation (The Role of the Midwife - Childbirth Practice)
28 Nov		Self study
29 Nov		Lecture (High-risk in Japan's Perinatal Maternal and Child Healthcare) Lecture (Initiatives of the With You activities)
30 Nov		Observation: Kawamachi Terrace Yuriage ⇒ Millennium Hope Hills Lecture (Postnatal Care Service Initiatives)
1 Dec	JICA Tohoku	Action Plan Preparation Guidance
2 Dec		Wrap up the training outcomes (individual work) Lecture & Observation: The Role of the School Medical Room in Educational Sectors
3 Dec	JICA Tohoku	Presentation/Discussion of Action plans Closing ceremony
4 Dec	JICA Tokyo	Move to Tokyo
5 Dec		Departure to Each Country

※This course is tentative and the schedule is subject to change without notice.

III. Eligibility and Procedures

1. 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

All applicants must satisfy the following:

- 1) Nomination: be nominated by the Government of the target countries in line with the procedures mentioned in 3.(1) below.

- 2) Experience in the relevant field: be involved in a field corresponding to the course mentioned in II. Description.
- 3) Age: be from twenty (20) to thirty-five (35) years of age and be expected to become leaders in their specialized fields in the future.
- 4) Language Proficiency: have a reasonable command of English and good command of 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 conditions¹ 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

¹ Pre-existing conditions :Chronic diseases, Conditions currently under treatment and Past illnesses that have resolved.

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.

6) Attitude : have interest in Japanese society and culture, and interaction with local residents

(2) Recommended Qualifications

- 1) Experience Visiting/Living in Japan: It's preferable that the applicant has not made any previous visits to Japan.
- 2) Educational Background: It's preferable that the applicant hold a Bachelor's degree.
- 3) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: JICA seeks more female applicants due to the past records of fewer applications from women. JICA is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and provides equal opportunities for all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

2. 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) **Job Report:** Job Report on the main issues concerning the targeted field in your country must be submitted. Detailed information is provided in the Annex 1.

3. 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 September 23, 2026)

Job Report (Annex 1) -- to be submitted with Application Form by September 23, 2026: All candidates are required to prepare the Job Report.

(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 Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.

(3) Notice of Acceptance

The JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan) will notify the results **not later than October 13, 2026.**

4. 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 Tohoku Center (JICA TOHOKU)

(2) **Program Officer:** Ms. YAMATO Teruko (thictad@jica.go.jp)

2. Implementing Partner

(1) **Name:** Miyagi Youth Association

URL: <https://seinenkaikan.or.jp>

(2) **Name:** Miyagi University

URL: <https://www.myu.ac.jp/english/>

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

(1) Tokyo

Basically, JICA will arrange the following accommodation(s) for the participants for the first week and the last night 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.

(2) Other cities

JICA will arrange accommodation(s) for your stay in cities other than Tokyo.

5. Expenses

The following expenses will be covered by JICA. Please note that some of these benefits will be provided in kind rather than in cash.

(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 "KENSU-IN GUIDE

BOOK," (English/French/Spanish/Russian).

*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.

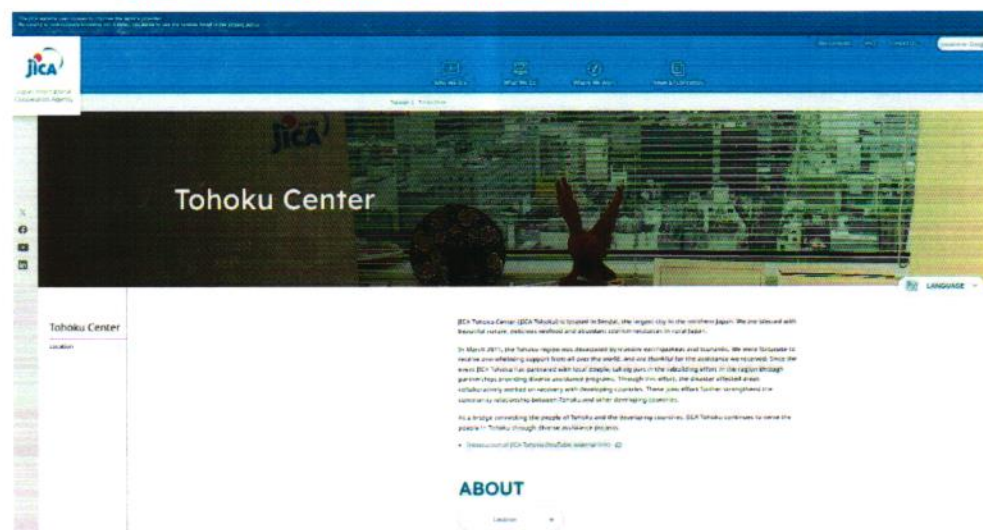
*YouTube of "Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan" and "Introduction of JICA Center" are viewable from the link below.

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 Tohoku	https://www.jica.go.jp/tohoku/english/office/index.html
JICA Tokyo	https://www.jica.go.jp/tokyo/english/office/index.html

7. About JICA Tohoku Center

Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/tohoku/index.html>



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Jicatohoku>



V. Other Information

1. Location of organizers



City of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan

The city of Sendai is located in the northern part of Japan, called the Tohoku region. The distance from Tokyo is about 350km, and it takes about 1.5 hours by shinkansen (bullet train). The population is about one million.

2. Climate

Average temperatures and precipitation in Sendai (2024)

Month	Nov
Average High (°C)	10.9
Average(°C)	23.9
Average Low (°C)	1.2
Precipitation (mm)	43.5

Please bring a folding umbrella in case it rains while you are in Japan

3. For Accepted Candidates:

The participants will present the job report and the country report at the initial of the training course.

All participants will make an Action Plan and present it at the end of the course.

The participants are required to bring own Laptop Computers (JICA will not prepare and rent PCs).

4. Short Trip:

Some short trips will be arranged during your stay in Japan. Participants are required to bring comfortable walking shoes and a backpack (or small suitcase). Walking shoes are necessary for field visits. A backpack (or small suitcase) is necessary when you go out for short trips to other cities. (So, you do not have to carry everything for each trip.) Also expected to bring folding umbrella in case it rains while you are in Japan.

5. Cash for Initial Expenses in Japanese Yen:

Your allowance (Yen) will be deposited into your temporary bank account in Japan 2 to 5 days after your arrival. As it may take several days before the fund become available, so you are strongly advised to bring sufficient cash to cover necessary expenses for the first week in Japan. (Please also see IV. 5. Expenses)

6. Reference:

JICA Tohoku made the video which introduces Japanese local history and development experiences related to Maternal health. Please watch the video.

This video will help you to understand how we have developed the maternal health in Japan and serve as a reference for development in your country.

[【Health】 Initiative of Sawauchi small village, the founder in Japan achieved zero infant mortality](#)

VI. Annex:

ANNEX 1

Job Report

(Within 1 page, A4 size, 1.0 spacing, Arial 11)

Note: Must be fill in by Typewriting

Name: _____ Country: _____

1. Your organization and your duties/responsibilities

2. Present situation.

- Current issues/challenges in your country.
- Administrative issues/challenges in your organization and the problems you are facing.

Annex 2

Guidelines for “Action Plan” Preparation

1. What's an Action Plan (AP)?

Action Plan is a course of follow up actions you prepare and present at the end of the training program. Utilizing the knowledge and the skills obtained through the program, you create AP, aimed for alleviating the problems you face in your country. Thus, AP should contain realistic and feasible goals to achieve within a set time-frame.

2. Why are you requested to prepare AP?

All of you are participating in this program, representing your country. Therefore, you are expected to share the ideas and the knowledge acquired through the program both internally within your organization and externally with outside parties, taking a leadership role in the effort to resolve issues in your country. AP is your project to accomplish after resuming your duty in your country.

3. Contents of AP

When preparing your AP, follow the steps in the flow chart below. Refer to your Country Report, and address specific issues you identified in the report, and what steps you can take to alleviate those issues. Apply the ideas you learned in the program. In constructing your AP, consider the following:

- 1) Problem areas to be addressed (Country Report)
- 2) Short and long-term goals
- 3) Target time frame
- 4) Actors to be involved (you, your supervisor, your organization and so on)
- 5) Source of funding
- 6) Probability/feasibility of success
- 7) Monitoring method and reporting back to each country's JICA.

4. Notes for AP writing

The most important point to keep in mind, when preparing your AP, is its feasibility. Even an excellent plan becomes meaningless if it is not implementable. The following are some tips to improving “feasibility”.

1) Getting assistance from your boss

Design your plan that can be implemented responsibly in your given authority. The plan should stay within the limit of your or your organization's authority. AP is not a grand scale plan for launching a new project, formulating new policies or completely revising the existing policies in your government. Instead, AP is YOUR plan to follow in your effort to alleviate issues that you face in your organization.

2) Balancing the size of your target group and available resources

Specify the target group by considering the budget required for implementation, your position, duties and so on. If the target group becomes smaller, the necessary financial and human resources also become smaller.

3) Continuous monitoring

Specify short and long term goals. Setting multiple goals can help you evaluate your progress more accurately, and identify missing factors needed to achieve all goals.

4) Applying the knowledge

Describe how the knowledge and the ideas obtained in Japan can be applied to your plan. There are many factors, such as financial and human resources, and cultural background that may be different in your country than in Japan. Therefore, Japan's system or method may not be immediately applicable to your country. Please give due consideration to such factors.

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 for Young Leaders is designed for young leaders expected to become future leaders in their specialized fields. Participants in the program learn about Japan's experience and technologies in the relevant fields that will be required for the future development of their own country. A variety of programs is open to young people in each field in each country.

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 Tohoku Center (JICA TOHOKU)

Address: 20th Floor, Sendai Dai-ichi Seimei Tower Bldg.4-6-1
Ichiban-cho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi-ken, 980-0811 Japan

TEL: +81-22-223-5775 FAX: +81-22-227-3090

E-mail: thictad@jica.go.jp