



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders) (Asia and Africa)

General information on

“Community-led Rural Development” Course
「住民主体の農村振興」コース
JFY2026

Course No.: 202517500J001

Course Period in Japan:
November 29, 2026 – December 17, 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.)

Community-led Rural Development (202517500J001)

2. Course Duration in Japan

November 29- December 17, 2026

3. Target Countries

Azerbaijan, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen

4. Target Group

Participants in the following positions preferably under the age of 35 are eligible to participate in this program:

- 1) Central or local government officials involved in agricultural and rural development administration
- 2) Staff members of counterpart institutions for JICA technical cooperation projects in the field of agriculture and rural development
- 3) Staff of agricultural-related organizations, including public institutions, cooperatives, and relevant associations

5. Number of Participants

14 participants

6. Language

English

7. Objective(s)

Through participation in this course, the participants are expected

- (1) To understand practical approaches to agricultural and rural development, including policy measures, community participation, value chain development, regional branding, and rural innovation
- (2) To learn about concrete initiatives for agriculture and rural development undertaken by agricultural stakeholders.
- (3) To understand Japan's experiences and technologies related to agricultural and rural development (such as smart agriculture, infrastructure development, and agricultural innovation), as well as the underlying social context.
- (4) To enhance awareness toward problem-solving and strengthen human networks through mutual learning and exchanges of opinions with stakeholders and participants.

8. Outline

This course consists of the following components.

(1) Lectures and Presentation regarding: a. overall challenges, policies, and current conditions of agriculture and rural development in Japan, including climate change measures and rural revitalization, b. Japan's experiences and practices in community-based agricultural and rural development, including smart agriculture, infrastructure development, branding, and support for small-scale farmers, and c. analytical approaches and concepts such as food value chains and trust-building, as well as case studies from Ehime Prefecture.
(2) Site Visits and Field Trips to: a. local farmers and agricultural producers, including citrus farmers and vegetable growers, b. agricultural facilities and organizations such as sorting and distribution centers (JA facilities), roadside stations (Michi-no-Eki), and direct sales outlets, and c. community-based initiatives in rural areas including Uchiko-cho and Gogoshima Island.
(3) Discussions with a. local residents, farmers, and agricultural stakeholders, b. local government officials and related organizations, and c. fellow participants to promote mutual learning, comparative analysis, and network building.

<Tentative Schedule of the Course>

Date	Venue	Contents	Purpose
29/Nov	Ehime University	Arrival in Ehime Prefecture	To understand the environment and systems surrounding agriculture in Japan and Ehime. To share participants' challenges and foster mutual understanding.
30/Nov-1/Dec		Course Orientation and Inception Report presentation	
2/Dec-3/Dec		Lectures - Community Health in Japan - Understanding Japan and Ehime - Comparing Japan and Home Communities - FVC, Information Asymmetry, and Trust Building - Regional Branding and Local Government	
4/Dec-11/Dec	On site	Site visits to Matsuyama city, Yawatahama City, Uchiko cho and Gogoshima Island - Dogo Hot Spring Tourist Area Shopping Arcade Market - Roadside Stations - JA Citrus Sorting Facility - Local Vegetable and Citrus Farms	To Learn about the support by local governments and the ingenuity of farmers and beneficiaries through directly interacting with farmers, producers and their products in the markets, shopping streets, and shops.
14/Dec-16/Dec	Ehime University	Action plan preparation and presentation	To apply and implement the lessons/achievements learned during the training to the daily work after returning to the home countries.

※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 target countries in line with the procedures mentioned in 3.(1) below.
- 2) Experience in the relevant field: Have more than two (2) years of practical experience in a field relevant to the course described 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 competent command of spoken and written English proficiency equivalent to CEFR B2 or above (Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC etc, if possible)
- 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.

- 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. 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 25, 2026**)

(2) Selection

Primary screening is conducted at the JICA overseas office (or the embassy of Japan) after receiving official documents from your government. JICA Center will consult with concerned organizations in Japan in the process of final selection. Applying organizations with the best intentions to utilize the opportunity will be highly valued.

The Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with 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 9, 2026**.

4. Additional Document to Be Submitted by Accepted candidates

Inception Report -- to be submitted by **November 13, 2026**, preferably by e-mail to Izawa.Hinako@jica.go.jp

See 'ANNEX -1' of 'VI. Annex'.

5. 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 Shikoku Center \(JICA SHIKOKU\)](#)

(2) Program Officer: Ms. IZAWA Hinako (Izawa.Hinako@jica.go.jp)

2. Implementing Partner

(1) Name: [Ehime University](#)

(2) URL: <https://www.ehime-u.ac.jp/en/>

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:

[Toyoko Inn Matsuyama Ichibancho](#)

Address: 1-10-8 Ichi-bancho, Matsuyama-shi, Ehime 790-0001, Japan
TEL: 089-941-1045

[HOTEL AZ Ehime Uchiko](#)

Address: 1529-1 Uchiko, Uchiko-cho, Kita-gun, Ehime 791-3301, Japan
TEL: 0893-44-3371

[Super Hotel Yawatahama](#)

Address: 1460-123 Chiyoda-cho, Yawatahama-shi, Ehime 796-0076, Japan
TEL: 0894-20-9000

5. Expenses

The following expenses will be provided by JICA

(1) Allowances for meals, living expenses, and stopover.

*If accommodation is required during the stay in the third country, the expenses for the stay (Only accommodation and daily allowance are covered; taxi fares for transportation are not included.) will be transferred to the bank account lent by JICA after arrival in Japan in accordance with JICA's regulations.

Please note that you will be responsible for arranging and paying for your own accommodation in third country when you return home.

(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.

Part I: Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan	
English ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLurfKugrEw
Arabic ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iBQqdpXQb4
Part II: Introduction of JICA Centers in Japan	
JICA Shikoku	https://www.jica.go.jp/shikoku/english/office/index.html

VI. Annex:

ANNEX 1 Guidelines for Inception Report

Japanese lecturers do not yet have a clear understanding of your activities and the challenges you face. To receive more relevant, practical, and useful advice from the lecturers, it is essential that you clearly communicate your work, the challenges you are confronting, and your expectations for the training program.

The Inception Report is a tool designed for this purpose. To maximize the benefits of the training, please present your situation and needs in accordance with the following guidelines.

- 1. Prepare the report in PowerPoint format.**
- 2. The report should consist of four (4) slides/pages.**
- 3. Structure of the Report**

Slide 1: Title Page

- * Report title
- * Participant's name
- * Organization
- * Position/Title

Slide 2: Self-Introduction

- * Brief introduction of your organization
- * Description of your current responsibilities and activities
- * Please use photographs or images that clearly illustrate your work and activities.

Slide 3: Challenges and Issues

- * Describe the main challenges, problems, or constraints you currently face in your work.
- * Please explain these issues in a way that relates to the expectations you will present on the next slide.

Slide 4: Expectations for the Training

- * Explain what you hope to learn through the training.
- * Describe how you expect to apply the knowledge and experiences gained to improve your work or activities in the future.

4. File Size and Submission

- * Please prepare the PowerPoint file in a size suitable for submission by email.
- * If your internet connection is unstable or slow, photographs and other large files may be sent separately.

5. Submission Deadline and Address

- * Please send your report to the address indicated in the General Information (GI).
- * The submission deadline is also specified in the GI.

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 Shikoku Center (JICA SHIKOKU)

Address: First Floor, Kagawa Sanyu Bldg., 3 Kajiya-machi, Takamatsu City, Kagawa
760-0028, Japan

TEL: +81-87-821-8824

("81" is the country code for Japan, and "87" is the local area code)