

# JICA KOMAGANE PROFILE

Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Komagane Training Center



# Foreword

The modern world is becoming increasingly chaotic. Problems related to conflict, extremism, poverty, disparities, infectious diseases and natural disasters are threatening the lives and dignity of many people across national borders and around the world. In 2015, the international community agreed upon the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a United Nations summit and took a first step toward realizing a world in which no one is left out of the benefits of development. The philosophy of “human security,” which Japan has advocated, is incorporated throughout the SDGs. Efforts on the SDGs represent a one-time opportunity for Japan to demonstrate its presence and leadership in the international community. To that extent, JICA, our comprehensive development cooperation agency charged with implementing Japan’s ODA, has a grave responsibility.

Incidentally, one reason for the confusion in the modern world is insufficient understanding and dialogue between civilizations. We need an international system in which many civilizations can co-exist upon such universal principles as basic human rights, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and peaceful conflict resolution. I think the role Japan and JICA can play on this point also is large. That is because we have respected the viewpoints of partner countries while maintaining a stance of equal relationships and mutual learning. In the future, we must more clearly state this policy as a philosophy of international cooperation and announce it strategically.

For Japan, which largely depends upon its relationships with the rest of the world, it is a matter of national interest for the world to be peaceful, stable and prosperous. If Japan can put its experience and expertise to work for world poverty reduction and economic growth, Japan’s presence will grow. JICA thinks it is important to promote international cooperation that contributes to Japan’s own growth and development by implementing development cooperation that encompasses various actors, including the Japanese government, local governments, private companies, civil society, universities and research institutes.

Recognizing this, JICA will work to strengthen the strategic aspect and comprehensiveness of its cooperation. Specifically, we will mainly develop the following themes based on the 2015 Development Cooperation Charter: 1) quality growth and mitigating disparities, 2) promoting peace-building and the sharing of universal values, 3) strengthening operational engagement on global issues and the international aid agenda, 4) expanding and deepening strategic partnerships, and 5) supporting an active role for women and their empowerment in developing countries.

With the trust of the people of Japan and a responsibility toward the world, I face my work as president of Japan’s international cooperation agency with a strong sense of mission. So I humbly request your continued support and encouragement.



**Shinichi Kitaoka, President**

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

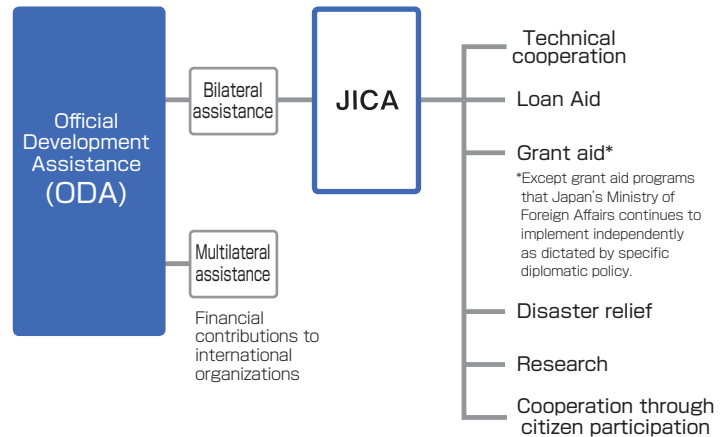
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## ODA and JICA

Since joining the Colombo Plan<sup>\*1</sup> in 1954, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries through ODA, aiming to contribute to the peace and development of the international community and thereby help ensure Japan's own security and prosperity<sup>\*2</sup>.

JICA is in charge of administering all ODA, such as technical cooperation, ODA loans and grant aid, in an integrated manner, except contributions to international organizations. JICA, the world's largest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions and has some 100 overseas offices.



<sup>\*1</sup> The Colombo Plan is an international organization established in 1950 to support economic and social development of countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Its head office is in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

<sup>\*2</sup> Taken from the ODA Charter, which was revised in August 2003.

## Offices in Japan

JICA has 15 branch offices in locations throughout Japan; each draw upon local distinctions and human resources to advance a range of JICA projects.

Domestic offices play an important role in JICA's international cooperation, providing a place for trainees from developing countries to study and promoting international cooperation and civic participation in the region.

Along with accepting trainees, domestic offices support various activities including providing information for JICA's activities, development education, and civic activities with local governments, NGOs, universities, etc.

Domestic offices will continue to serve as bridges that connect Japan and developing countries to promote international cooperation utilizing knowledge, technology, and experience that has been cultivated by the society, industry, and people in each region over of the years.

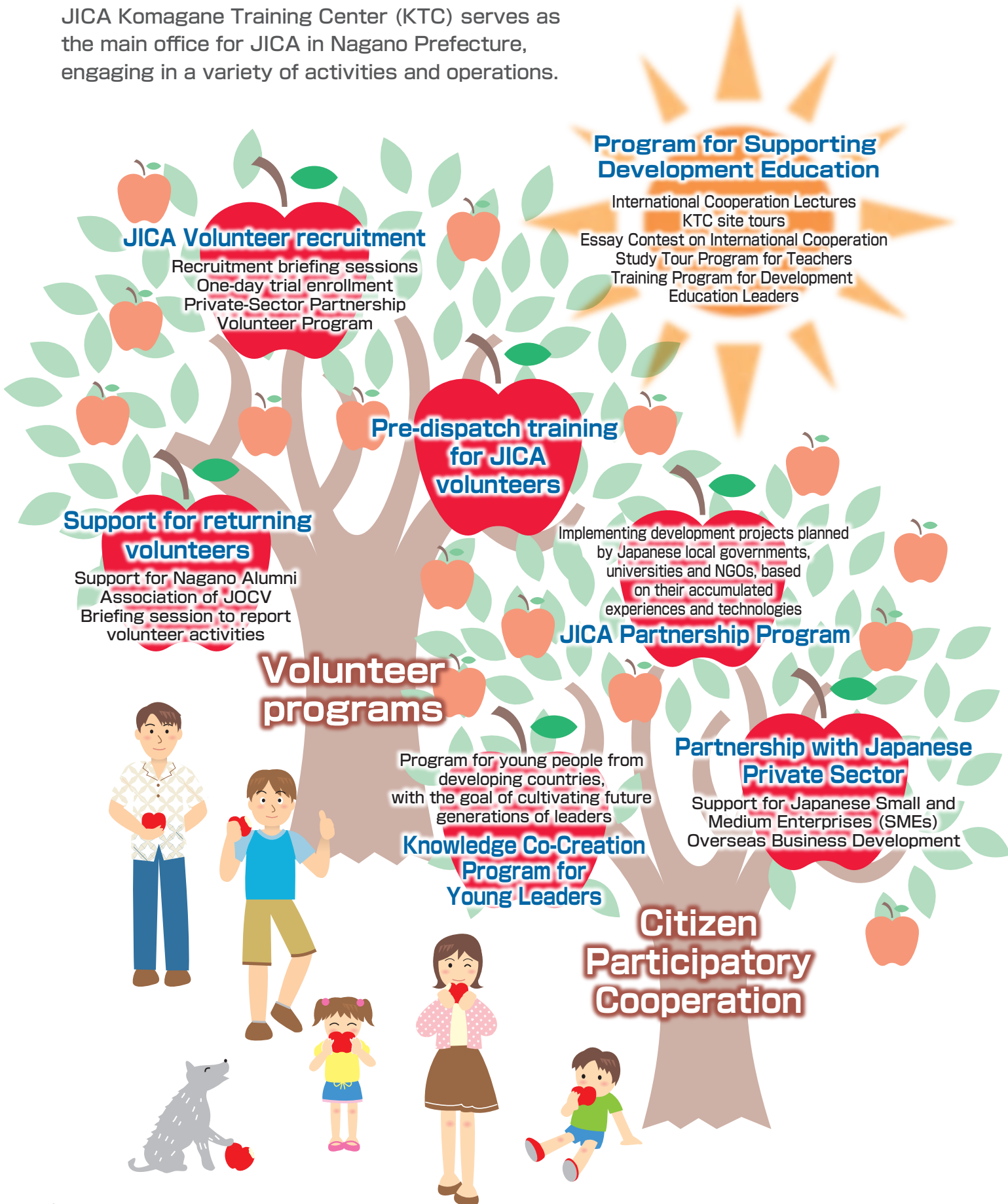
### Offices in Japan

- ① JICA Hokkaido (Sapporo)
- ① JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro)
- ② JICA Tohoku
- ③ JICA Nihonmatsu
- ④ JICA Tsukuba
- ⑤ JICA Tokyo
- ⑥ JICA Global Plaza
- ⑦ JICA Yokohama
- ⑧ JICA Komagane
- ⑨ JICA Hokuriku
- ⑩ JICA Chubu/Nagoya Global Plaza
- ⑪ JICA Kansai
- ⑫ JICA Chugoku
- ⑬ JICA Shikoku
- ⑭ JICA Kyushu
- ⑮ JICA Okinawa



# On the Frontline of International Cooperation in the Shinshu Region

JICA Komagane Training Center (KTC) serves as the main office for JICA in Nagano Prefecture, engaging in a variety of activities and operations.



## History of KTC

Year	Duration	History of Training Programs
1965	62 days	<b>Inauguration of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program</b> Training of the first dispatch of 31 participants (five of whom were female; volunteers dispatched to the Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Laos) involves general orientation and language study at the Overseas Migration Center of the former Overseas Migration Agency in Yokohama and technical training at vocational schools and organizations. The purpose of the training is to cultivate a spirit of community service and the perseverance to overcome hardship and loneliness in a difficult environment completely different from that of Japan.
1968	91 days	<b>Office of Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Hiroo Training Center established</b> Training entailing a two-month general orientation and one-month technical training, for a total of three months. Language training is conducted throughout the period. Originally held 3 times a year.
1973	119 days	Training is held 4 times a year for 16 weeks (4 months). The first half of the training takes place at Hiroo Training Center for 8 weeks involving classroom lectures, while the latter half involves intensive language study at the Yoyogi Training Center for eight weeks (using the facilities at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center).
1974		<b>Nagano Alumni Club of Overseas Cooperation Volunteers launched</b>
1979	105 days	<b>KTC opens</b> Training begins for 4 dispatches of candidates, each consisting of 100 participants. Introductory training is held at Hiroo Training Center for one month, and three months of intensive language study is provided at KTC. Upon transfer from Hiroo to Komagane, a 3-day Zen meditation seminar is organized, and candidates are transferred again following training at KTC back to Hiroo, where pre-dispatch functions, including the completion ceremony and farewell party, are held.
1982		Each dormitory room is changed to double occupancy due to the increase in the number of candidates.
1983		<b>Komagane Municipal JICA Volunteer Development Association launched</b>
1984	91 days	Training is restructured from 4 to 3 dispatches a year, with self-contained training programs held simultaneously at Hiroo and Komagane training centers. Candidates completing the training at KTC are transferred to Tokyo, and candidates from both training centers gather together for the pre-dispatch orientation and other functions as part of the dispatch protocol that lasts 3 days.
1986		<b>Nagano Prefectural Japan Overseas Volunteer Development Association launched</b>
1988	77 days	<b>Training building expanded and large lecture hall added</b> Starting with Dispatch January 1988, each dispatch consists of 190 participants.
1991		<b>Number of participants completing training at KTC exceeds 5,000.</b>
1994	79 days	<b>Nihonmatsu Training Center (NTC) established.</b> All training program content, including functions prior to dispatch, is conducted simultaneously at Hiroo, Komagane, and Nihonmatsu training centers based on the same training implementation plan.
1996		<b>Deployment of training counselors</b>
1998		<b>20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KTC</b>
1999		<b>Training building expanded</b>
2000		<b>Dormitory building expanded</b> Each dormitory room is now single occupancy and each dispatch now consists of 240 participants.
2001		<b>Nagano Prefecture JICA Desk (Nagano City) launched</b> <b>Number of participants completing training at KTC exceeds 10,000.</b>
2005		<b>25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KTC</b>
2006	70 days	<b>Training for Senior Overseas Volunteers (SV) held at KTC</b>
2007	65 days	<b>Joint training of JOCV and SV starts at KTC and NTC</b>
2009		<b>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of KTC</b> <b>Number of participants completing training at KTC exceeds 15,000.</b>
2013	70 days (SV 35 days)	<b>Training period for JOCV is 70 days and for SV is 35 days</b>
2014		<b>35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KTC</b>
2015		<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JOCV</b> <b>Number of JOCV exceeds 40,000.</b>



Photo of KTC in 1979



Opening ceremony of KTC



20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration



Pre-dispatch training



Photo of KTC as it is today

Pre-dispatch training for Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Senior Overseas Volunteers is one of KTC's primary missions. Volunteers are recruited from throughout Japan and the training is conducted four times a year over a 70-day (35-day for SV) period in preparation for service abroad.

### What is pre-dispatch training?

As they will live and work together with local people in natural and social environments different from Japan, it is essential that JICA volunteers possess cross-cultural understanding, technical competency, and communication skills, as well as passion and a healthy mind and body.

As such, pre-dispatch training is conducted in a training camp format with the goal of meeting the following 6 criteria in order for candidates to acquire the essential qualities as a JICA volunteer.

Purpose of pre-dispatch training  
Acquire vital abilities and qualities as JICA volunteers

- ① Understanding of the JOCV mind and practical skills
- ② Volunteering skills (basic)
- ③ Volunteering skills (practical)
- ④ Understanding of and adaptability to people from different cultural background
- ⑤ Crisis management abilities
- ⑥ Language skills

### Languages and Destinations for pre-dispatch training program

Language	Destination
English	Bhutan, Maldives, India, Oceanic countries, Belize and other Caribbean countries etc.
Spanish	Mexico, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and other Latin American countries
French	Senegal, Niger, and other West African Francophone countries; Cameroon, Gabon, and other Central African Francophone countries
Nepalese	Nepal
Sinhalese	Sri Lanka
Bengali	Bangladesh
Hindi	India
Russian	Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan
Uzbek	Uzbekistan
Kyrgyz	Kyrgyzstan

※ Depending on the dispatch, some languages above may not be offered.

## 70-day pre-dispatch training workflow

### Training starts

#### Opening Ceremony



Candidates from throughout Japan gather for the pre-dispatch training.

#### Discussion on volunteer spirit



Candidates with various backgrounds and motivations discuss the requirements for activities in developing countries and how to approach future training.

### First Phase

#### Cross-cultural Understanding Workshop



Candidates deepen cross-cultural understanding through workshops and discussions.

### Middle Phase

#### Outdoor community volunteer work



Candidates volunteer at local farms, daycares, and welfare facilities in Komagane City.

6:30 Morning assembly

7:20 Breakfast

8:45-11:40 Lessons

11:40-13:00 Lunch break

A day at the training center  
(Monday through Saturday)

#### Morning Assembly



Candidates perform morning gymnasium exercises after the roll calls are taken and the flag is raised.

#### Language Classes



Language classes comprise about two-thirds of the entire lesson time. Candidates learn in small group settings.

#### Meals



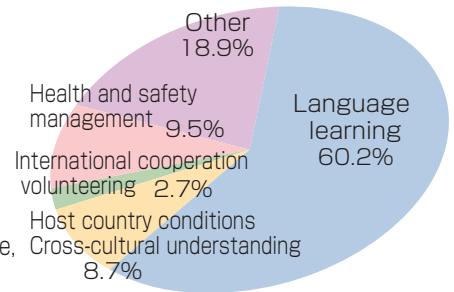
The candidates' health is taken into account in the preparation of meals. Rarely is the same dish served twice over the 70-day training.

# for the world meet

## Summary of JICA volunteer pre-dispatch training programs

International cooperation volunteering	JICA Program Summary, JICA Volunteer Program Vision and Goals, International Relations and Japan's International Cooperation, volunteer networking sessions, etc.
Language	Language classes, Cross-Cultural exchange program, Half Day Trip (conversation practice outside of KTC) etc.
Host country affairs Cross-cultural understanding	Host country affairs, introduction to cross-cultural adaptation, life skills seminars, communication skills, outdoor community volunteer work etc.
Health and safety management	Physical Strength Maintenance Seminar, dental hygiene, spiritual hygiene, first aid, infectious diseases, overseas safety measures, etc.

Time allocation of pre-dispatch training



### Seminars open to the general public

KTC opens part of its pre-dispatch training program to the general public. Feel free to participate if you are interested in international cooperation or would like to experience pre-dispatch training. Reservations are required. For more information, visit KTC's website or contact the person in charge of public seminars.

〈 Examples of seminars open to the public 〉

- International Relations and Japan's International Cooperation
- JICA Program Summary
- JICA Volunteer Program Vision and Goals
- Introduction to Cross-Cultural Adaptation
- Earth Stage (concert)

## Final Phase

### Outdoor training



Candidates learn team building and practical skills in outdoor setting with limited use of water and electricity. These skills are useful in their daily lives and activities in developing countries.

### Cross-Cultural Exchange Program



Exchange program is held with foreign guests from the destination countries or neighboring countries. Guests use the training language and interact with candidates.

### Final Language Exam



Through listening, written and oral tests, the final exam comprehensively evaluates the candidates' acquisition of language.

## End of training

### Closing Ceremony



The end of the training program and the start of real work. Bon voyage!

## 13:00-17:00 Lessons

### Various Seminars



Candidates gain essential knowledge for working in developing countries, including health management, and cross-cultural understanding.

## 18:00 Dinner

### Meal Duty



Candidates take turns helping to clean up after meals.

## 23:00 Lights out

### Study, student-led workshops, etc.



Even during their free time in the evening candidates learn through student-led workshops, etc.

## Recruitment of JICA volunteers and Support for returning volunteers

### JICA Volunteer recruitment

JICA welcomes participation from members of the general public with a variety of backgrounds to its volunteer programs.

JICA volunteer programs include JOCV

and Senior Volunteers, as well as Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas and Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas, who contribute to the development of *Nikkei* communities in Latin America.

KTC holds recruitment briefing sessions and provides a one-day trial enrollment at the time of recruitment. In addition, on-site volunteer seminars are available anytime. KTC dispatches its staff to schools and companies to explain about JICA volunteer programs upon request.



Language study during one-day trial enrollment

#### ● JICA Volunteer Programs 4 types

Name	Target Age
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)	20-39
Senior Overseas Volunteers (SV)	40-69
Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	20-39
Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	40-69

### Support for returning volunteers

KTC provides opportunities for returning volunteers to make use of their experiences. KTC holds briefing sessions in which these volunteers report to the community what they achieved through their volunteer activities. KTC also supports Nagano Alumni Association of JOCV, an organization composed of returning JICA volunteers in the prefecture.

#### JICA Volunteers Family Liaison Group

This group connects the families of volunteers serving in different parts of the world, allowing families staying behind to network with one another and with the staff of KTC.

Networking opportunities aim to ease their anxiety through the active exchange of information on an annual basis.



## Partnership with Japanese Private Sector

### Support for Japanese Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Overseas Business Development

In recent years, Japanese SMEs have been actively involved in overseas business development. This program is intended to solve development issues and achieve the growth of developing countries by leveraging the excellent technologies and products of Japanese SMEs.



SMEs Seminar held in Matsumoto

### Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program

This program is designed for Japanese companies to develop capacities of their employees to gain global skills. Under the program, JICA sends employees of the participating companies to developing countries as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), so that they will develop human network, learn local business practices, and gather business-related information through volunteer activities there.



JOCV asking questions to a restaurant owner in Viet Nam



# internationally-minded

## JICA Partnership Program

JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is the program in developing countries proposed by Japanese development partners, such as local governments, NGOs and universities, which are carried out collaboratively with JICA's assistance. The aim of JPP projects is to improve the lives and livelihoods of people in developing countries and directly benefit local residents. Applications can be made following one of the three types below.

Types	Targets	Project Scope	Recruitment Period
Support Type	NGOs, universities, and public interest corporations with limited experience in international cooperation	Within three years Within 10 million yen	Twice a year (scheduled for each June-July and November-December)
Partnership Type	NGOs, universities, and public interest corporations with extensive experience in international cooperation	Within five years Within 100 million yen	Twice a year (scheduled for each June-July and November-December)
Regional Proposal Type	Local governments (may include organizations who collaborate with local governments in project implementation)	Within three years Within 30 million yen	Annually (scheduled for each August-September)



Community based Comprehensive Elderly Care Project in Chonburi Province, Thailand Project in Saen Suke Municipality as a pilot Area.



Expansion of Participatory Local Social Development based on IIDA Local Governance Model in LEGAZPI City, Philippines.

## Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Young Leaders

This program is a cooperative program, aimed at human resource cultivation for future generations, designed to provide basic training to young people from developing countries. Participants in the program learn about Japan's experience and technologies in the specialized fields that will be required for the future development of their respective countries.

The program is open to young government officials and young leaders (aged from about 20 to 35 years old) who, through their specialized fields, will be engaged in the future development of their respective developing countries.



Thai/Maternal and Child Health Management Course, 2016



Cambodia/Economic Administration (Industrial Development and Promotion) Course, 2016



Maldives/Physical Education Course, 2016



Indonesia/Lifestyle-Related Diseases Prevention Course, 2016

## Program for Supporting Development Education

KTC offers the following programs to promote development education and international understanding education.

### International Cooperation Lectures

KTC sends former JICA volunteers and KTC staff members as lecturers to schools and training sites, etc. They give lectures on their volunteer experience that are intended to help the audience gain international and cross-cultural understanding, and benefit them as they plan their futures.



### Essay Contest on International Cooperation

Open to Junior and Senior High School Students across Japan, this contest requires students to write essays considering what action Japan and Japanese individuals should take for developing countries, thereby deepening the students' understanding of conditions in developing countries and the need for international cooperation.

### Training Program for Development Education Leaders

This program provides an opportunity for teachers, who are engaged in development education and international understanding education to learn methods and case examples that are applicable in their classes. It also aims to establish and develop networks for teachers in various regions engaged in development education.



### KTC site tours

Visitors learn about international understanding and cooperation at KTC where JICA volunteers receive pre-dispatch training. A lunch meeting between the visitors and volunteer candidates is also available optionally.



### Study Tour Program for Teachers

KTC provides a 10-day study tour held in developing countries for teachers interested in development education and international understanding education. This program allows teachers to observe the actual conditions in developing countries and then put their experience into practice in their classes once they have returned to Japan.

### Shinshu global seminar

This annual seminar offers opportunities to learn from JICA about ODA and from local governments, NGOs and international exchange organizations about their activities for international cooperation, international exchange and multicultural coexistence.

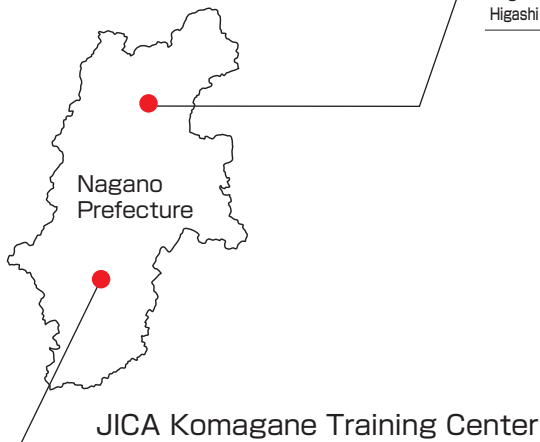


# future together

## Nagano JICA Desk

JICA has set up the Nagano JICA Desk within the Association of Nagano Prefecture for Internationalization (ANPI), which is staffed with a Coordinator for International Cooperation.

The Coordinator for International Cooperation performs duties such as promotion of JICA's programs, publicity, and educational activities and promotion of collaboration with local governments' international exchange and collaborative programs. Contact the Coordinator for any questions you may have regarding international cooperation or JICA's activities.



### Nagano JICA Desk

Association of Nagano Prefecture for Internationalization (ANPI) JICA Desk 1st floor, Kencho-higashi Building, 692-2 Minaminagano, Nagano-shi, 380-8570  
 TEL:026-235-7186 FAX:026-235-4738  
 E-mail:jicadpd-desk-naganoken@jica.go.jp



## Overview of the KTC facility

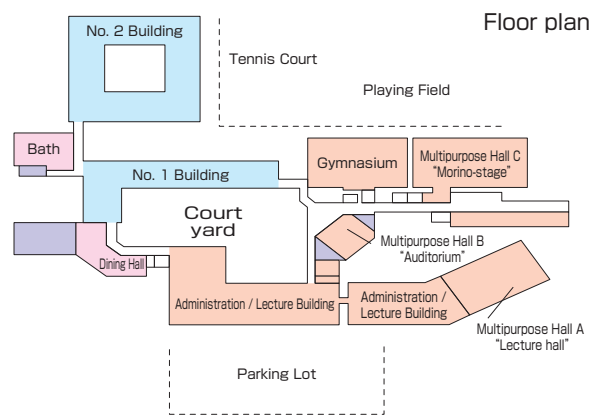
### Size

Land area: 61,953m<sup>2</sup>

Total floor area: 13,531m<sup>2</sup>

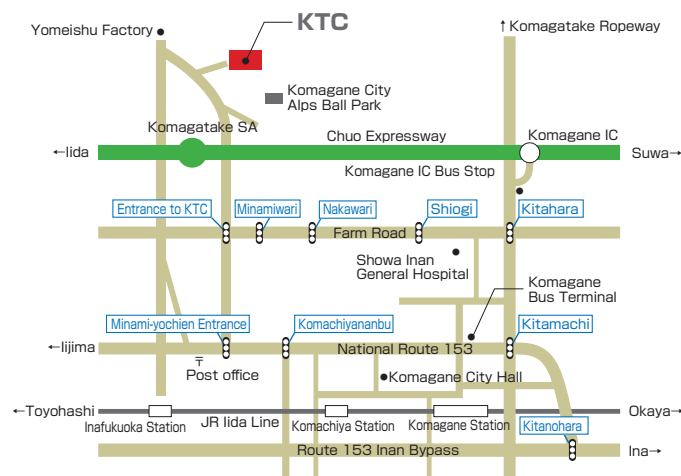
### Main buildings

- ◆ Administration and lecture buildings  
Language classroom, multipurpose halls, library, clinic, gymnasium, seminar rooms, life-skills classroom
- ◆ Dormitory buildings  
Three-story No. 1 Building and Four-storey No. 2 Building  
Rooms: 238 (including two universal-access rooms)
- ◆ Other  
Dining hall and bath



## JICA Overview

- Name Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Representative Shinichi Kitaoka, President
- Location Headquarters : Floor 1-6, Nibancho Center Building, 5-25 Nibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8012  
Tel: +81-3-5226-6660-6663 (main switchboard)
- Established October 1, 2003
- Purpose Established as an independent administrative institution under the law concerning the Independent Administrative Institution Japan International Cooperation Agency (Law No.136, 2002), JICA aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions.



## JICA Komagane Training Center

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**E-newsletter** [jicakjv@jica.go.jp](mailto:jicakjv@jica.go.jp)

Every month, KTC releases an E-newsletter with the latest information on international cooperation taking place in Nagano Prefecture. If you would like to receive the E-newsletter, please contact us at the email address above (mobile e-mail addresses not accepted).