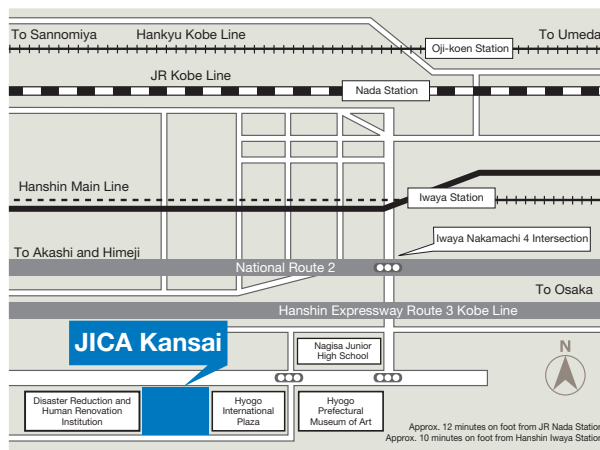


# JICA Kansai PROFILE

Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Kansai International Center





**Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Kansai International Center**

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JICA's international cooperation initiatives take place not only overseas, but also within Japan.

Here in Kansai, a region of great cultural diversity that comprises six prefectures with a population of more than 20 million people, there are a great many things that can be done to promote international cooperation.

Together with the citizens of Kansai, JICA Kansai aims to contribute to nation-building in developing countries by taking advantage of the region's unique characteristics.



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On April 1, 2012, JICA Osaka and JICA Hyogo merged and began operating as JICA Kansai. JICA Kansai is located in the eastern part of Kobe (the HAT Kobe area), which was developed as part of the recovery project following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. As the office responsible for JICA operations in Kansai (Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara and Wakayama prefectures), we conduct various programs in cooperation with our local partners to become a bridge between Kansai and developing countries.

### Contribution to Regional Revitalization



<p><b>Knowledge Co-Creation Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invites administrative and engineering officials from developing countries and conducts training in cooperation with regional partners</li> <li>Aims to promote "Knowledge Co-Creation" in which Japan and developing countries can learn from each other</li> </ul>	<p><b>Private-Sector Partnership Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates matching between the needs of developing countries and the products, technologies, and services of small and medium-sized private enterprises in Kansai</li> </ul>	<p><b>JICA Partnership Program (JPP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducts the JICA Partnership Programs proposed by Japanese NGOs, local governments, universities, companies, etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Volunteer Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develops globally competitive human resources who can serve to help not only for developing countries, but also domestic regional activation efforts</li> <li>Pursues regional activation by utilizing the knowledge acquired by returning volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Development Education Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes Japanese citizens' understanding of developing countries and international cooperation, as well as participation in international cooperation activities</li> <li>Contributes to the development of globally competitive human resources</li> </ul>
<p><b>Collaboration with Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The experience accumulated by local governments in regional development and in municipality management is useful for developing countries.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Collaboration with Universities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The specialized knowledge possessed by universities and their experience in providing global education are useful for developing countries.</li> </ul>			



## Kansai's Attractiveness

### History & Culture

Since the capital of Japan was located in Nara and Kyoto for centuries, many significant historical events have taken place in Kansai. In addition, Osaka has long prospered as one of Japan's largest commercial cities, flourishing as an economic and cultural hub. Furthermore, many traditional skills, theater arts and cultural heritage practices still exist in Kansai.

Kobe, where JICA Kansai is located, holds a unique position as a city whose development revolved around its international trade port, which has supported Japan's modernization and economic development.



Deer in Tōdai-ji Temple (Nara)



JR Osaka Station

### Industry & Economy

With a population of more than 20 million and a GDP of approximately 930 billion USD, the Kansai region has a huge economic market. The size of the Kansai economy alone is equivalent to that of South Korea. The region was once a center for heavy industries such as steel manufacturing and shipbuilding, but recent years have also seen developments in industries utilizing cutting-edge technologies such as biotechnology, healthcare, new material developments, and environmental technologies.

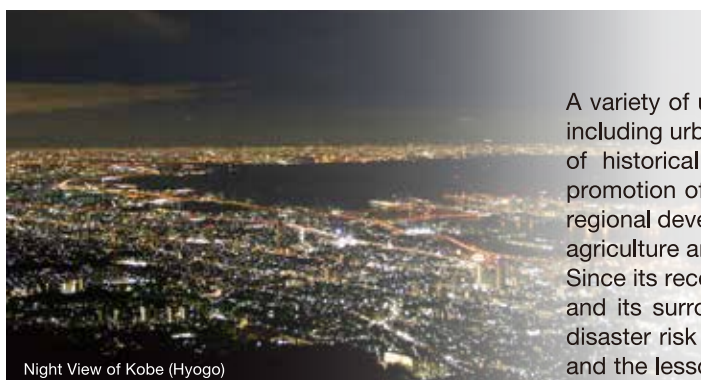
In addition to many global companies representing Japan, another special characteristic of Kansai is its large number of various small and medium-sized enterprises, each of which boasts its own unrivaled technologies.

### Academic Study, Research & Development

Kansai is home to many universities—such as Kyoto University, Osaka University and Kobe University—and industrial clusters. It also has a large number of advanced research institutes, the most notable of which are the following: the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster, which is focused on advanced medicine; the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, which is located at Kyoto University and specializes in the world's first iPS cell research; and the RIKEN Advanced Institute for Computational Science, which developed K, the world's most advanced supercomputer.



© Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University



Night View of Kobe (Hyogo)

### Regional, Urban & Rural Development

A variety of urban development initiatives are being undertaken in Kansai, including urban development that takes into consideration the preservation of historical townscapes in the old capitals of Kyoto and Nara, the promotion of environmental management in large metropolitan areas, and regional development through implementation of the highly commercialized agriculture and fisheries industries.

Since its recovery from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, Kobe and its surrounding regions have continued to share their knowledge of disaster risk reduction with the rest of the world based on its experiences and the lessons it learned. Another unique characteristic is that the Kansai prefectures, along with the prefectures adjacent to them, conduct regional administration through the Union of Kansai Governments to deal with inter-prefectural issues.

## Area & Overview

The six Kansai prefectures of Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara and Wakayama are located near the center of the Japanese archipelago. Possessing diverse cultural backgrounds and rich economic foundations, they continually attract the attention of people and countries around the world.

With a unique and diverse locality, this region is known to possess a creative and vibrant spirit and to enjoy a thriving private sector.





## Knowledge Co-Creation Program

### Kansai's knowledge and technologies for the world

With the objective of developing human resources who will play key roles in carrying out nation-building efforts in developing countries, JICA invites over 10,000 administrative and engineering officials and technicians from around 150 countries to participate in training every year. Participants are expected to not only acquire the nation-building skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to the development of their own countries, but also to deepen their understanding of Japanese traditions and culture through their experiences in Japan.

JICA Kansai utilizes the unique regional characteristics of Kansai's six prefectures with the cooperation of various other bodies, including local governments, universities, private companies, NGOs, and the relevant ministries and agencies. Every year, it invites around 1,800 participants to attend roughly 250 courses with a focus on the three fields of industrial development (small and medium-sized enterprises), disaster risk reduction, and environmental management (solid waste management).



Participants in Shiga Prefecture's environmental training course collecting plankton on the shore of Lake Biwa (photo courtesy of ILEC)



Participants observing waste collection in Nishinomiya City (photo courtesy of LEAF)

## Joint Operation with Hyogo Prefecture: Disaster Reduction Learning Center (DRLC)

### Sharing with the rest of the world the experiences and lessons learned from the large-scale earthquakes of the past and our preparations to deal with such earthquakes in the future

In April 2007, JICA and Hyogo Prefecture jointly established the Disaster Reduction Learning Center (DRLC) in what was then JICA Hyogo with the aim of promoting human resource development for developing countries in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Japan has learned a lot from its experience of dealing with a variety of past natural disasters, such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake. Moreover, it has a great deal of knowledge and know-how regarding future risks, including disasters predicted to produce large-scale

damage such as the Nankai Trough Earthquake, an earthquake with an epicenter situated directly beneath Tokyo, and flash floods or sediment disasters resulting from localized torrential rain. In order to take full advantage of this knowledge and experience for disaster risk reduction in developing countries, the DRLC is conducting a variety of activities, including the Knowledge Co-Creation Program in collaboration with organizations engaged in activities related to disaster risk reduction, local governments, NGOs, and the local communities.



Experiencing a fire extinguishing drill in the local community



Checking for regional hazardous areas on a hazard map



Training participants attending a disaster medical skills competition



## Scholarship Programs (Long-Term Programs)

### Bridge to the Future: Development of Human Resources

JICA Kansai hosts long-term exchange students participating in Master's and Doctoral programs at universities in the Kansai area. After they have completed degree programs in fields such as public policy, engineering, agriculture, business administration, and ICT, the students are expected to contribute to the industrial development of their own countries and to serve as a bridge between their countries and Japan.

The ABE Initiative Program (African Business Education Initiative for Youth) was launched in 2014 as one of JICA's new long-term programs. It provides participants with an opportunity to not only study at graduate school, but also take up internships in Japan's private sector during summer vacations and after they have completed their studies. They are expected to play an active role in supporting the economic activities of Japanese enterprises in Africa.



An ABE Initiative graduate selected as valedictorian (photo courtesy of Doshisha University)



An ABE Initiative participant during his internship at a lightning protection manufacturer



Entrance ceremony (photo courtesy of the Graduate School of Information Technology, Kobe Institute of Computing)



## Partnership with the Private Sector

### Japanese technologies for developing countries

The Kansai area is well known for being home to a large number of companies with outstanding products and technologies. Today, Kansai-based companies that provide solutions for various development issues—such as water purification, waste management and agriculture—are able to take advantage of the increasing business opportunities in developing countries.

To connect Japanese companies with developing countries, JICA Kansai provides the following: seminars offering the latest information; support for market research/pilot projects; and assistance for human resource development. Through our close collaboration with other organizations and financial institutions, extensive support is also available.



Explaining the product to some Vietnamese people (Kato Hitoshi General Office Co., Ltd.)



Demonstrating a crack measurement system (Kumonos Corporation)

## JICA Partnership Program (JPP) and NGO Support Program

### Sharing the experiences of Kansai citizens, NGOs, universities, local governments and companies with the world

Under the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), JICA jointly implements projects based on proposals made by bodies such as Japanese NGOs, universities, local governments and companies. The aim of this program is to directly improve the livelihoods and living environments of citizens in developing countries at the grassroots level. Many projects are proposed and implemented from the Kansai region, such as in disaster risk reduction through the utilization of knowledge of the recovery efforts undertaken

following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, as well as in environmental fields, human resources development, etc.

In addition, JICA Kansai provides support for NGOs in the Kansai region that implement staff training and other relevant activities.



Group photograph of participants attending the contest for the disaster risk reduction community radio program, which was held by all of the community radio stations at the foot of Mount Merapi and community radio stations from three other regions (Indonesia)



Japanese NGO staff and local Kenyan volunteers investigating waste collection solutions for the increased amounts of waste in Kenya's rural areas



## Development Education Program

### Connecting classrooms with the world: JICA Kansai's education support program

In a world where globalization is advancing, it is imperative for people to acknowledge that the various problems facing humanity are the very problems that we ourselves face as well, and we must reflect on our lifestyles and engage in solutions.

Utilizing its knowledge, experience and human resources in international cooperation, JICA Kansai is conducting education support programs in regional areas and, in particular, school learning environments with the aim of “promoting understanding and participation in international cooperation” and “developing human resources who will play a key role in the future of the Earth.”

JICA Kansai is promoting international understanding in schools and the region through programs such as the following: “**International Cooperation Lectures**,” where former JICA volunteers visit schools to speak of their experiences in developing countries; the “**JICA Kansai Visit Program**,” which can be utilized for school

visit studies; the “**Program for Interacting with Training Participants**,” where students can interact with JICA training participants visiting Japan from abroad; events for students and residents, such as JICA’s **Essay Contest on International Cooperation** for junior and senior high school students; the “**Study Tour Program for Teachers**,” where volunteers actually visit developing countries to create learning materials; the “**Seminar for Development Education Instructors**,” where global issues and social systems can be learned through active learning and participation-based learning materials.

A wide variety of programs are available, all of which can be leveraged in this global age to deepen understanding of the conditions and issues of today’s international society that ought to be known, as well as the background to such matters and how they relate to our lives in Japan.



Participants in the “Study Tour Program for Teachers” engaged in teaching children the importance of life during evacuation training at a school damaged during the Nepal Earthquake



High school students introducing Japanese culture to JICA training participants



Elementary school students deepen their understanding of faraway lands as they listen to the experiences of a former member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers



# Dispatch of JICA Volunteers

## Venturing out into the world from Kansai!

JICA volunteers live alongside local residents in developing countries, learn to speak the local language, respect local customs, and contribute to regional, social and economic development through community-based efforts.

### ■ Four Types of JICA Volunteers

Type	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers	Senior Volunteers	Youth Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities
Target age	Ages 20–39	Ages 40–69	Ages 20–39	Ages 40–69
Activity region	Asia, Africa, Central and South America, Oceania, Middle East		Nikkei Communities in Central and South America	
Activity period	Generally, 2 years (short-term volunteer programs are also available)			
Application period	Twice a year: spring applications (around April) and fall applications (around October)			

### ■ Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program

In order to handle overseas development in newly emerging nations, Japanese private companies face the urgent challenge of securing human resources with a global mindset and capabilities. In light of this, JICA has launched the “Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program,” which allows the dispatch country, requirements, occupation, and dispatch period to be tailored according to the needs of the individual private company.

As well as contributing to the social and economic development of the relevant country, the aim is to contribute to the overseas activities of Japanese companies by dispatching volunteers to those countries that the companies hold an interest in and providing the volunteers with opportunities to create human networks, learn the local language, develop an understanding of the culture and business customs, and ascertain the country’s technology levels and various needs through volunteer activities.



Conducting educational activities at an elementary school about measures for the prevention of filariasis (Dispatch country: Bangladesh/Activity occupation: Infectious disease countermeasures)



Conducting a joint city-wide disaster risk reduction drill for a large-scale earthquake (Dispatch country: El Salvador/Activity occupation: Disaster risk reduction)



Teaching about computers at a local government research institute (Dispatch country: Tanzania/Activity occupation: PC instructor)

## Collaboration with Local Governments

The experience accumulated by local governments in regional development and in municipality management is useful for developing countries.

Local governments in Japan provide a variety of public services to improve the livelihood of its residents, such as waterworks and sewage maintenance, waste management, disaster risk reduction, and regional development. JICA aims to take full advantage of the experience of local governments in order to respond to the various needs of developing countries, while simultaneously responding to the needs of the local governments in developing their technical personnel for the public sector as well as encouraging their local businesses to expand into overseas markets.

Some concrete examples of these efforts include the following: **Knowledge Co-Creation Program** conducted in collaboration with local governments and extra-governmental organizations; the **JICA Partnership Program**, which is founded on the knowledge and experience of local governments; **JICA Volunteer Program** tailored to the interests of local governments; **Development Education Program** that is provided in collaboration with their respective boards of education; and support for local businesses in expanding overseas.



Discussions during a Seminar on Strengthening Collaboration between Local Governments and JICA

## Collaboration with Universities

The specialized knowledge possessed by universities and their experience in providing global education are useful for developing countries.

With the problems faced by developing countries becoming increasingly diverse, JICA's cooperation with universities—the focal points of knowledge—is indispensable. JICA is seeking to actively contribute to the needs of universities by supporting global education through its **JICA Volunteer Program** and **International Cooperation Lectures**, encouraging foreign students to study in Japan through long-term training programs, facilitating more intellectual contributions and networking overseas by universities through the **JICA Partnership Program**, the **Technical Cooperation Project** and the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (**SATREPS**\*).

\* SATREPS is a JICA program that seeks to resolve global-scale issues and elevate technological standards based on the needs of developing countries by cooperating with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).



SATREPS project represented by Osaka University: "Determine the Outbreak Mechanisms and Development of a Surveillance Model for Multi-Drug Resistant Bacteria." Japanese scientists involved in providing training on the antibiotic-resistant gene cloning of drug-resistant bacteria together with young Vietnamese microbiologists. (Hanoi City in 2015)



A lecturer with abundant overseas experience conducting a seminar on international cooperation hosted by university students



Students from the University of Hyogo teaching baseball in Argentina



## JICA Plaza Kansai

Let's see, listen and think about what we can do from Kansai

JICA Kansai aims to become a base for sharing information regarding international cooperation. The Exhibition Room, the First Floor Lobby and the cafeteria, are integrally run as "JICA Plaza Kansai." JICA Kansai is continually striving to enable citizens to gain an intimate understanding of various conditions in developing countries and to implement JICA programs to resolve the issues that they face.

### Exhibition Room

—You can see, touch and experience—

Beginning with an introduction to JICA programs, the exhibit features panels, three-dimensional models, ethnic clothing, and folk crafts that are all tied to the theme of cultures and issues from around the world. There are many exhibit items related to international cooperation that can be "seen, touched and experienced."



### First Floor Lobby

—We provide a space to share—

The Lobby features exhibits coordinated with the monthly ethnic dishes available at the JICA Kansai Cafeteria and with the themes featured in the Exhibition Room. Also, exhibitions of photographs taken by JICA volunteers and artwork produced through various activities are displayed. The space also provides a place where international cooperation organizations, such as NPOs and NGOs, can introduce their activities.



### JICA Kansai Cafeteria

—Let's start by enjoying cuisine—

"Eat and experience!" Why not try some ethnic cuisine? The cafeteria is for training participants from developing countries, but its doors are open to everyone. In addition to monthly ethnic dishes, the cafeteria also serves weekly international dishes, daily Japanese dishes, Islamic Halal dishes, and TFT menus\*.

The cafeteria is completely non-smoking, so you can enjoy your meal in comfort. Child seats are also available, and children are more than welcome.



#### \*TFT Menu:

Table for Two is a program intended to share food with children in developing countries.

For each meal, 20 yen is donated to fund school lunches for children in developing countries.

# JICA Desk

## JICA inquiry desks in the Kansai region

JICA Desks are located in Kansai's six prefectures. International cooperation promotion officers are posted at these offices to perform the duties listed below. If you are interested in JICA programs or collaborations with JICA Kansai, please feel free to contact us.

- Promotion of publicity activities regarding international cooperation programs in cooperation with local governments, local international exchange associations, etc.
- Promotion of collaborations with international cooperation programs conducted by local governments, local international exchange associations, universities, NGOs, companies, etc.
- Promotion of the JICA Partnership Program (JPP)
- Promotion of the Partnership with the Private Sector
- Promotion of the JICA Development Education Program
- Promotion of citizen participation in JICA Volunteer Programs, application consulting, and support for and promotion of activities by returning volunteers
- Support for and promotion of identifying partners to implement the Knowledge Co-Creation Program
- Other

### JICA Hyogo Desk

Partnership Program Division, JICA Kansai  
 TEL. (078) 261-0384  
 FAX. (078) 261-0357

### JICA Osaka Desk

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)  
 TEL. (06) 6966-2400  
 FAX. (06) 6966-2401

### JICA Wakayama Desk

Wakayama International Exchange Association (WIXAS)  
 TEL. (073) 435-5240  
 FAX. (073) 435-5243

### JICA Shiga Desk

Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization (SIA)  
 TEL. (077) 526-0931  
 FAX. (077) 510-0601

### JICA Kyoto Desk

Kyoto Prefectural International Center (KPIC)  
 TEL. (075) 365-7786  
 FAX. (075) 342-5050

### JICA Nara Desk

Nara Prefecture International Citizens Center  
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 FAX. (0742) 81-3830



JICA Kansai Website

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