

About the Newsletter

JICA publishes a newsletter periodically.

We will deliver useful information for JICA Long-term Participants to enrich your academic life in Japan. Please check out our newsletter! Here's the topic for this fiscal year's first newsletter!

01 Additional Program For JICA Long-term Participants ~Join Us To Maximize Your Learning Experience In Japan! ~

Since you are coming to Japan as JICA Scholars and spending a few years in Japan, we are expecting you to experience the value and significance of studying in Japan as part of JICA's cooperation to your home countries. We offer such programs so that the learning as JICA Scholars remain with you even after your study period is over.

<7 Additional Programs>

1. Networking Seminar

- To provide opportunities to network among JICA Scholars and to think about future goals.
- Twice during your stay in Japan

2. Monitoring & Evaluation

- To consult your research progress and life in Japan with JICA staff
- Twice a year

3. Online Japanese Language Program

- To provide a free online Japanese course of one-on-one lesson
- Fifteen hours in the first year of your stay in Japan*There will be selections in case of high volume of application

4. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience

- is a joint effort with partner universities to provide a broad overview of Japan's modern development
- Both vide-on-demand and on site

5. Local Program

- To learn about Japanese local history and development experiences
- A few times a year, during the university holidays

6. Internship & Networking Fair

- Only eligible course participants will be contacted

7. Useful Information including newsletter

- To keep updated with various events exclusively for JICA Scholars both online and on-site

The list on the left are some specific programs, but there are many more, and we encourage you to proactively contact the nearest JICA Domestic Center in your area.

*Your academic research at your university is the top priority. Therefore, please make sure that there is no hindrance to classes and research at the university when participating in any of the programs. If your schedule is open, please participate in the programs mentioned on the left that allow you to build a network beyond countries and universities.

In this newsletter, we are reporting **the Regional Understanding Program** that took place in January, and the activities of returnees who keep in touch with us.

02 2024 the Understanding the Japanese Local History and Development "Development of Suwa area, Nagano Prefecture" ~Seiko Epson's Developing technology with manufacturing spirit~

Seiko Epson Corporation, a global manufacturing company based in Nagano Prefecture, is JICA's precious partner. This time, the company and JICA Tokyo Centre coordinated a three-day Regional Understanding Program where the fifteen JICA Scholars learned, experienced, and discussed **"Efficient, Compact and Precise Innovation"**.



Ms. Imen (right side of the photo), one of the participants, told us that her first time participating in such a program was invaluable.

"The knowledge gained from this program helps me to develop a better understanding of the innovation strategies of Japanese companies and how they evolve over time. This insight is highly relevant to my studies in innovation and marketing, which will support my career development by equipping me with practical examples of sustainable and socially responsible business practices."



03 Voice from Alumni

Mr. Bright (left side of the photo), another participant told us that his passion for innovative solutions for social issues has been stimulated by the program.

"I learned how promises that benefit society, such as Seiko Epson's commitment to preserving Lake Suwa, can shape a company's values and practices. This experience has inspired me to focus on leveraging heritage, precision, and sustainability in my research and career. I plan to apply the principles I observed to co-create innovative and practical solutions for challenges in Ghana and Africa. Also, I would like to acknowledge that Epson and JICA team did a very good coordination with their creative moderation of the sessions. I have indirectly learned from their organizational skills and practices."

Each Domestic Center plans Regional Understanding Programs like this every year. We would expect your active participation. For details, please reach out to the nearest Domestic Center.

Mr. Dovi arrived in Japan in 2021 as a JICA Scholar, bringing with him a strong passion for technology and innovation. During his time in graduate school, he conducted groundbreaking research on the potential of mobile money, culminating in the development of an application designed to provide reliable and fee-free remittances within 14 African CFA franc* zones. His master's thesis earned high praise from the Kobe Institute of Computing (KIC), leading to his receipt of the prestigious Exploratory Practice Award at the 2023 graduation ceremony. *CFA franc= name of currency used in 14 African countries

Mr. Dovi, why did you select Japan as your study abroad destination?

I have had a fascination with Japan since I was a child. I learned to repair TVs and radios in my neighborhood, and most of these electronic devices were from Japan, a country renowned for its outstanding quality. This childhood experience not only sparked my interest in electronics, but also instilled in me a deep admiration for Japanese technology and innovation.

What was your most memorable experience in Japan?

As a robotics engineer, I am very interested in process. I am very impressed by the close attention to detail that goes into everything that is done in Japan. This is true for various traditional arts, from craftsmanship (I remember making Uchiwa fans→ last year in Wakayama Prefecture using local handmade washi paper) to the efficiency of public transportation. The Japanese approach to process,

whether in sushi making, tea ceremony, or electronics manufacturing, is accompanied by a deep respect for detail and a relentless pursuit of precision and perfection. This commitment to process not only ensures high-quality results, but also seems to reflect the broader cultural values of respect, discipline, and continuous improvement.



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CONTACT



If there are any topics you would like us to cover, please let us know!
We welcome to someone who can share your story or pictures in Japan.
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