



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus)

GENERAL INFORMATION ON

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RATIFICATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

課題別研修「水銀に関する水俣条約批准と実施に向けた能力強化」
JFY 2017

NO. J1704440 / ID. 1784783

Course Period in Japan: From October 10, 2017 to November 9, 2017

This information pertains to one of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which shall be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both Governments.

‘JICA Knowledge Co-Creation (KCC) Program’ as a New Start

In the Development Cooperation Charter which is released from the Japanese Cabinet on February 2015, it is clearly pointed out that *“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.”* We believe that this ‘Knowledge Co-Creation Program’ will serve as a center of mutual learning process.

I. Concept

Background

The use of mercury can be seen in many phases of the life of people – the manufacturing of sodium hydroxide and vinyl chloride, the small-scale gold mining, etc.

However, mercury is a heavy metal occurring in several forms, all of which can produce toxic effects on human health. In fact, in some places such as Minamata City in Japan, Whitedog in Canada, people suffered by the mercury poisoning – they unknowingly took bio-concentrated mercury from their foods. The adverse effect of mercury pollution on human health is known as Minamata Disease.

In January 2013, governments took a step forward to prevent the mercury pollution by agreeing a global convention which covered emissions and releases of mercury. Then in October 2013, at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, the “Minamata Convention on Mercury” was formally adopted and opened for signature.

The Convention is an international treaty to regulate the import and export of mercury and manufacture of products using mercury. The Convention aims to manage mercury internationally to prevent the mercury pollution, the adverse effects on human health and environment.

Now the Convention was signed by 128 countries and ratified by 40 countries (as of March 2017).

It is a global issue to promote the ratification process of the convention to make the convention entry into force.

For what?

This program aims to improve participants' understanding on activities in Japan and capacity on procedures of legislative preparation for ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

For whom?

This program is offered to administrative officers in charge of legislative preparation for ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

How?

The program provides lectures, inspections and practical works to share the lessons from Minamata Disease in Japan and Japan's experience on the preparation. Then the program helps the participants to identify key points and requirements for the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

II. Description

1. Title (J-No.)

Capacity Building for Ratification and Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (J1704440)

2. Course Period in JAPAN

October 10, 2017 to November 9, 2017

3. Target Regions or Countries

Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Malaysia, Marshall Islands and Sudan

4. Eligible / Target Organization

This program is designed for the governmental or public organizations which are engaged in the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention.

5. Course Capacity (Upper limit of Participants)

10 participants

6. Language to be used in this program

English

7. Course Objective

The Action Plan drafted based on this training course is implemented to promote ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in the participants' countries.

8. Overall Goal

The necessary legislative preparation is carried out and the Minamata Convention on Mercury is ratified and implemented by the participants' countries.

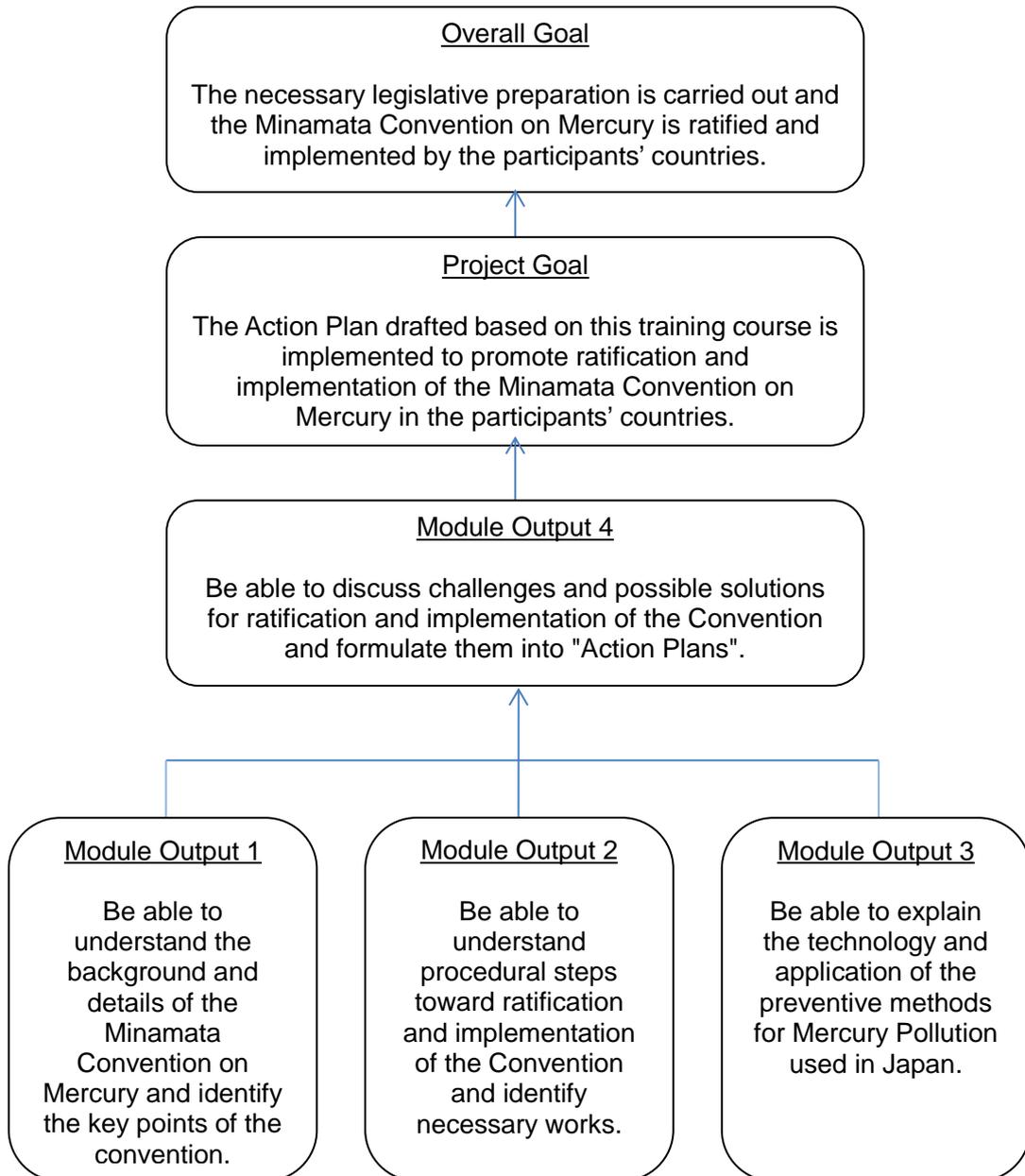
9. Expected Module Output and Contents

This program consists of the following components. Details on each component are given below:

Expected Module Output	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
1. Be able to understand the background and details of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and identify the key points of the convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use and Emission of Mercury in Japan - Use of Mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) - What the Minamata Convention States and Process of Negotiation - History of Minamata Disease - Minamata Disease Patient Storyteller's Talk - Minamata Disease Mitigation Project and "Mercury-Free" Promotion by Kumamoto Prefecture - Observation of Solid Waste Management Facility in Minamata City 	Lectures, Field Visits, and Discussions
2. Be able to understand procedural steps toward ratification and implementation of the Convention, and identify necessary works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation Process for the Ratification of the Convention by Japan - Relationship and Necessary Modification of the Other Conventions and Laws 	Lectures and Discussions
3. Be able to explain the technology and application of the preventive methods for Mercury Pollution used in Japan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Countermeasures Taken for Mercury Pollution - Countermeasures for Mercury Emission to the Air and Emission Inventory - Pollution Prevention of Mercury - Observation of Management Facility of the Recycling Plant of Mercury Used Products - Environmental Assessment 	Lectures, Field Visits, and Discussions
4. Be able to discuss challenges and possible solutions for ratification of the Convention and formulate them into "Action Plans".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Job Report Presentation - Daily Review with Course Leader - Planning and Drafting the Action Plan - Presentation of the Action Plan 	Presentations, Exercises, and Discussions

<Structure of the program>

Topic outline (subject to minor changes)



III. Conditions and Procedures for Application

1. Expectations from the Participating Organizations:

- (1) This program is designed primarily for organizations that intend to address specific issues or problems identified in their operations. Applying organizations are expected to use the Program for those specific purposes.
- (2) In this connection, applying organizations are expected to nominate the most qualified candidates to address the said issues or problems, carefully referring to the qualifications described in section III-2 below.
- (3) Applying organizations are also expected to be prepared to make use of knowledge acquired by the nominees for the said purpose. This program is designed primarily for organizations that intend to address specific issues or problems identified in their operation. Participating organizations are expected to use the project for those specific purposes.
- (4) This program is enriched with contents and facilitation schemes specially developed in collaboration with relevant prominent organizations in Japan. These special features enable the project to meet specific requirements of applying organizations and effectively facilitate them toward solutions for the issues and problems.

2. Nominee Qualifications

Applying Organizations are expected to select nominees who meet the following qualifications.

(1) Essential Qualifications

- 1) Current Duties: be administrative officers in charge of legislative preparation for ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- 2) Experience in the relevant field: have more than 3 years' experience in the field mentioned above, and be willing to work for your organization in the future (at least 5 years).
- 3) Educational Background: be a graduate of university or equivalent level.
- 4) Language: have a competent command of spoken and written English which is equal to TOEFL CBT 250 or more.
- 5) Health: must be in good health, both physically and mentally, to participate in the Program in Japan. Pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply due to the potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus

(2) Recommendable Qualifications

- 1) Age: between the ages of twenty-five (25) and fifty (50) years old
- 2) Educational background: Participants are preferable to have the educational backgrounds in the related fields such as Environment, Chemistry or Law.
- 3) Others: Participants are expected to be familiar with PC operation, as there

will be many occasions for report writing and presentations.

3. Required Documents for Application

(1) **Application Form:** The Application Form is available at **the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan)**.

(2) **Photocopy of passport:** to be submitted 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.

*Photocopy should include the followings:

Name, Date of birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport number and Expire date.

(3) **Job Report:** to be submitted with the application form. Refer to section V. of this General Information for the detail instructions. It is needed to submit it along with the Application Form.

(4) **English Ability Certificate:** If available, please attach the official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS etc.

4. Procedures for Application and Selection

(1) Submission of the Application Documents

Closing date for applications: **Please inquire to the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan)**.

(After receiving applications, the JICA Office (or the Embassy of Japan) will send them to **the JICA Center in JAPAN by August 8, 2017.**)

(2) Selection

After receiving the documents through proper channels from your government, the JICA Office (or the Embassy of Japan) will conduct screenings, and then forward the documents to the JICA Center in Japan. Selection will be made by the JICA Center in consultation with concerned organizations in Japan. *The applying organization with the best intention to utilize the opportunity of this program will be highly valued in the selection.* Qualifications of applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military will be examined by the Government of Japan on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan, taking into consideration their duties, positions in the organization, and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner.

(3) Notice of Acceptance

Notification of results will be made by the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) **not later than September 8, 2017.**

5. Conditions for Attendance:

(1) to strictly adhere to the program schedule.

- (2) not to change the program topics.
- (3) not to extend the period of stay in Japan.
- (4) not to be accompanied by family members during the program.
- (5) to return to home countries at the end of the program in accordance with the travel schedule designated by JICA.
- (6) to refrain from engaging in any political activities, or any form of employment for profit or gain.
- (7) to observe Japanese laws and ordinances. If there is any violation of said laws and ordinances, participants may be required to return part or all of the training expenditure depending on the severity of said violation.
- (8) to observe the rules and regulations of the accommodation and not to change the accommodation designated by JICA.

IV. Administrative Arrangements

1. Organizer:

(1) **Name:** JICA Kyushu International Center (KIC)

(2) **Contact:** Mr. Tadanobu ONO (kictp@jica.go.jp)

2. Implementing Partner:

(1) **Name:** Soshisha, the Supporting Center for Minamata Disease

(2) **URL:** <http://www.soshisha.org/en/>

3. Travel to Japan:

(1) **Air Ticket:** The cost of a round-trip ticket between an international airport designated by JICA and Japan will be borne by JICA.

(2) **Travel Insurance:** Coverage is from time of arrival up to departure in Japan. Thus traveling time outside Japan will not be covered.

4. Accommodation in Japan:

JICA will arrange the following accommodations for the participants in Japan:

(1) During the Briefing, Orientation and Technical Training Program

JICA Kyushu International Center (KIC)

Address: 2-2-1 Hirano, Yahata Higashi-ku, Kitakyushu-shi,
Fukuoka, 805-8505 Japan

TEL: 81-93-671-6311

FAX: 81-93-671-0979

(81: country code for Japan, 93: area code)

If there is no vacancy at KIC, JICA will arrange alternative accommodations for the participants. Please refer to facility guide of KIC at its URL,

<https://www.jica.go.jp/kyushu/english/office/c8h0vm0000a0cdx5-att/kyushu01.pdf>

(2) During the Technical Training Period by Soshisha

Participants will stay at a hotel in Minamata City, Kumamoto City or Kitami City.

In Tokyo: JICA Tokyo International Center (TIC)

Please refer to facility guide of TIC at its URL,

https://www.jica.go.jp/tokyo/english/office/c8h0vm00009uld4m-att/tokyo_facilities.pdf

*If there is no vacancy at TIC, JICA will arrange alternative accommodations for the participants.

5. Expenses:

The following expenses will be provided for the participants by JICA:

(1) Allowances for accommodation, meals, living expenses, outfit and shipping

(2) Expenses for study tours (basically in the form of train tickets)

(3) Free medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy or dental treatment are not included)

(4) Expenses for program implementation, including materials

For more details, please see “III. ALLOWANCES” of the brochure for participants titled “KENSU-IN GUIDE BOOK,” which will be given before departure for Japan.

6. Pre-departure Orientation:

A pre-departure orientation will be held at the respective country’s JICA Office (or Japanese Embassy), to provide participants with details on travel to Japan, conditions of the workshop and other matters.

V. Other Information

1. Reports and Presentation

(1) Job Report

As written in the previous page, each nominee is required to submit his/her own Job Report following the instruction in the previous sections. Refer to VI. ANNEX for the necessary contents of the report to submit with application form.

Participants will have a presentation of their Job Report up to 10 minutes at the early stage of the training program in order to share knowledge and background with other participants as well as the instructors. Visual materials such as Power Point and pictures may be helpful for your presentation if you bring them with you. When you use Power Point, it is preferable to use letter size more than 24 point and not to use pictures on the background.

(2) Action Plan Report

Accepted participants are required to formulate an action plan at the end of the training program in Japan to show your ideas and plans, which you carry out after return to its home country, reflecting the knowledge and method acquired from the training. Each participant will have approximately 10 minutes for presentation.

(3) Laptop PC

Participants are requested to bring their own laptops upon arrival in Japan. They will be useful to take notes, modify reports, and prepare for presentations.

2. Cultural Exchange Program with local communities

JICA encourages Cultural exchange between JICA participants and local community. Participants will have a chance to visit elementary school, high school or a civic group. Therefore, participants are recommended to bring their national costumes or crafts and materials such as photographs that will make the exchange program more fruitful.

3. Remarks

JICA training is implemented for the purpose of development of human resources who will promote the advancement of the countries, but not for the enrichment of individuals or private companies. Matters of a trade secret and patent techniques will remain confidential and inaccessible during the training.

VI. ANNEX

- 1. Job Report**
- 2. Schedule of training course**

Annex 1

Job Report (necessary contents)

Name: _____

Country: _____

Organization and present post: _____

Remarks 1: The Report should be typewritten in English (12-point font, A4 size paper), and total pages of the report should be limited to **3 pages** (not including the organization chart).

Remarks 2: Each participant is required to have presentation in 10 minutes based on this Job Report at the early stage of the training for the purpose of making the training more effective and fruitful by comprehending the situations and challenges of the participants each other.

Remarks 3: Please itemize your answer and make them specific.

1. Your Organization and Its Main Tasks

(1) Main tasks of the organization

(Recommend to include annual budget and number of employees)

(2) Organization chart:

Please draw a chart of your organization including the department (section) names with the number of staffs in it and mark where you are positioned.

(3) Brief description of your assignments.

2. Situation of Mercury Use and Pollution in Your Country

(1) Mercury supply (mining and trade)

(2) Mercury use

(3) Mercury pollution

(4) Mercury waste management

3. Activities for Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

(1) Current activities in order to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury

(2) Challenges you are facing

(3) Countermeasures for these challenges

(4) Obstacles in the process of solving those challenges

4. Expectations for the training course (up to 1 page in maximum)

(1) Most interesting areas or topics of mercury management

(2) How do you expect to apply skills and knowledge for overcoming challenges according to listed items in curriculum (in the previous section) after you return to your home country?

(3) Other matters you are expecting for this course

Annex 2

Schedule of training course 2016 (for your reference)

*Now we are preparing program for 2017. The program will be similar to of the 2016, but there might be some changes.

	Date		Subject
Nov	20	(Sun)	(Arrival to KIC, Kitakyushu-shi)
	21	(Mon)	JICA Briefing, Program Orientation, Japanese Language Class
	22	(Tue)	General Orientation of Japan, Cultural Exchange Program, Japanese Language Class
	23	(Wed)	Japanese Language Class, (a half day off)
	24	(Thu)	Course Orientation, Job Report Presentation, Discussion
	25	(Fri)	Significance of The Convention, Visit to Coal-fired Thermal Electric Power Plant, (Move to Tokyo)
	26	(Sat)	(day off)
	27	(Sun)	(Move to Asahikawa, Itomuka)
	28	(Mon)	Visit to Recycling Plant (Move to Tokyo)
	29	(Tue)	Process to the Convention, Response by various countries, Mercury Management in Japan
	30	(Wed)	Control Mercury in Water/Atmosphere/Soil, Coal-fired Electric Power Generation Plant, Material Flow of Mercury
Dec	1	(Thu)	Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste, Food and Mercury, Mercury Management by Japanese Gov.
	2	(Fri)	Gold Mining and ASGM, Discussion
	3	(Sat)	(Move to Kumamoto City)
	4	(Sun)	(day off)
	5	(Mon)	Courtesy Call to Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, General Program of Kumamoto Prefecture for Minamata Disease, "Mercury-Free" Promotion Project, (Move to Minamata City), Visit to Minamata Bay Reclaimed Land
	6	(Tue)	Courtesy Call to Mayer of Minamata City, Visit to Soshisha and Minamata Disease Museum, Brief explanation of Minamata Disease, Artisanal & Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM)
	7	(Wed)	Visit to Minamata Disease Municipal Museum, Minamata Disease Patient Storyteller's Talk, Medical Aspects of Minamata Disease
	8	(Thu)	Communication with Minamata Disease patients, Solid Waste Treatment by Minamata City Government
	9	(Fri)	Monitoring of Mercury in Atmosphere, Research on Treatment to Improve Patients' Quality of Life, Technical Cooperation for Mercury Analysis (Incl. Hair Mercury Test), Home visit program
	10	(Sat)	Home Visit Program
	11	(Sun)	(move to Kitakyushu)
	12	(Mon)	From Overcoming Pollution to Development of Environment Future City, Creation of Eco-town, Group Discussion among Participants,
	13	(Tue)	Drafting Action Plan (Workshop)
	14	(Wed)	Drafting Action Plan (Workshop)
	15	(Thu)	Evaluation of the Course, Presentation of Action Plan, Closing Ceremony
	16	(Fri)	(Leave from Japan)

For Your Reference

JICA and Capacity Development

The key concept underpinning JICA operations since its establishment in 1974 has been the conviction that “capacity development” is central to the socioeconomic development of any country, regardless of the specific operational scheme one may be undertaking, i.e. expert assignments, development projects, development study projects, training programs, JOCV programs, etc.

Within this wide range of programs, Training Programs have long occupied an important place in JICA operations. Conducted in Japan, they provide partner countries with opportunities to acquire practical knowledge accumulated in Japanese society. Participants dispatched by partner countries might find useful knowledge and re-create their own knowledge for enhancement of their own capacity or that of the organization and society to which they belong.

About 460 pre-organized programs cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection. A variety of programs are being customized to address the specific needs of different target organizations, such as policy-making organizations, service provision organizations, as well as research and academic institutions. Some programs are organized to target a certain group of countries with similar developmental challenges.

Japanese Development Experience

Japan was the first non-Western country to successfully modernize its society and industrialize its economy. At the core of this process, which started more than 140 years ago, was the “*adopt and adapt*” concept by which a wide range of appropriate skills and knowledge have been imported from developed countries; these skills and knowledge have been adapted and/or improved using local skills, knowledge and initiatives. They finally became internalized in Japanese society to suit its local needs and conditions.

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 this “*adoption and adaptation*” process, which, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories. We presume that such experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, will be useful to our partners who are trying to address the challenges currently faced by developing countries.

However, it is rather challenging to share with our partners this whole body of Japan’s developmental experience. This difficulty has to do, in part, with the challenge of explaining a body of “tacit knowledge,” a type of knowledge that cannot fully be expressed in words or numbers. Adding to this difficulty are the social and cultural systems of Japan that vastly differ from those of other Western industrialized countries, and hence still remain unfamiliar to many partner countries. Simply stated, coming to Japan might be one way of overcoming such a cultural gap.

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.



CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact the JICA Office or the Embassy of Japan. Further, address correspondence to:

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