Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus)

GENERAL INFORMATION
on

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
課題別研修「食料および農業のための植物遺伝資源の保全および利用」
JFY 2019

NO. 201984921J002
Course Period in Japan: From September 2nd, 2019 to October 9th, 2019

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 Program (KCCP)' as a New Start

In the Development Cooperation Charter which was 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

Genetic resources are most valuable heritage for mankind and are indispensable for sustaining life on earth. The genetic resources have been useful in the breeding of various crop cultivars with characteristics that satisfy the needs of consumers such as good taste, and improvement of productivity such as pest resistance, etc.

However, in order to create novel crops to counteract the consequences of changing environment, it is necessary to utilize substantial diversity that can be obtained only from older varieties or closely related wild species.

In 2010, according to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, three objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. Japan has taken a leading role in promoting adoption and implementation of the Protocol.

For what?

This course is designed for contributing conservation of plant genetic resources/biological diversity and promoting sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

For whom?

This program is offered to researchers who are currently working in the national organizations dealing with management, conservation, and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

How?

This program provides opportunity for concentrated laboratory research programs on the theme of plant genetic resources.

During the program period, participants will conduct an individual research under the direction of instructor(s) in the laboratory. Participants will acquire relevant research techniques, including planning of a research design, conducting the experiments, writing the experimental report, and both presentation and evaluation of results in the research program.

Participants will have a chance to take lectures on the latest information of plant genetic resources and also to take practices on the fundamental techniques. Besides that, participants will have opportunities to visit various research institutions to acquire the latest knowledge on plant genetic resources.

II. Description

1. **Title (No.):**
   Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (201984921J002)

2. **Course period in Japan:**
   September 2nd, 2019 to October 9th, 2019

3. **Target Regions or Countries:**
   Brazil, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

4. **Eligible / Target Organization:**
   National gene banks or research institutes related to plant genetic resources

5. **Course Capacity (Upper limit of Participants):**
   9 participants

6. **Language to Be Used in This Program:**
   English

7. **Course Objective:**
   To improve participants abilities to carry out research on plant genetic recourses' conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture

8. **Overall Goal:**
   To promote sustainable food supply and agriculture in the respective countries

9. **Expected Module Output and Contents:**
   This program is consisted of the following components. Details on each component are given below:

(1) **Preliminary Phase in a participant's home country** (July to August 2019) *Participating organizations need to make required preparation for the Program in the respective countries.*	
Expected Module Output	Activities
-	Formulation of Inception Report (See the ANNEX Ⅲ)

(2) Core Phase in Japan (September 3, 2019 to October 8, 2019) *Participants dispatched by the organizations attend the Program implemented in Japan.*		
Expected Module Output	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
To be able to explain the current issues and situations about the field of plant genetic resources in participants' countries and their institutes.	Current situation of the participant's organization regarding genetic resources research.	Presentation and Discussion (Group program)

To be able to explain the status of participants' countries considering the global movement on the conservation and the use of plant genetic resources.	(1) International environment surrounding plant genetic resources, such as ITPGR, CBD, etc. (2) Economic values and intellectual property rights of plant genetic resources. (3) Situational analysis on the conservation and the use of plant genetic resources in participants' mother organization and related organizations.	Lecture, Discussion & Workshop (Group program)
To acquire comprehensive knowledge and relevant technique concerning plant genetic resources.	(1) Methods for management of seeds conservation system (including database management, such as passport data). (2) Methods for exploration of plant genetic resources. (3) Methods of collecting plant genetic resources. (4) Method of evaluation of plant genetic resources, such as evaluation of form and nature, DNA assay, and component analysis of seeds. (5) Methods for conservation and multiplication. (6) Methods for application of plant genetic resources' breeding.	Consultation & Presentation (Group program) (Individual research)
To make a report for the best use of acquired knowledge and skills.	Technical Report Preparation and Preparation.	Consultation & Presentation (Group program)

<Structure of the program> Topic outline (subject to changes)

(1) Briefing and Orientation : 0.5 day
(2) Inception Report Presentation: 0.5 day
(3) Lectures, Practices, and Observation in Group: about 2 weeks
⇒At the beginning of the course, participants will learn fundamental subjects and latest knowledge on plant genetic resources through lectures, practices, and observation in group.
(4) Individual Research Program: about 3 weeks
The Individual Research Program includes the design-making, preparation, and conducting the experiment, such as data analysis, writing report, and presentation of experimental results. The following five (5) subjects have been prepared for the individual research program (attached as ANNEX I).
① **Characterization and usage of sorghum genetic resources**
② **DNA assay on evolution of weedy azuki bean**
③ **Diversity analysis/characterization of asian vigna using DNA assay**
④ **Conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources**
⑤ **DNA marker analysis and seeds material analysis on soy beans (cultivated-type and nature-type)**
⑥ **Plant genetic resources management**
⑦ **Character evaluation (screening) of developing plant genetic resources**
⑧ **DNA marker analysis of wheat, barley or melon genetic resources**
(5) Wrap-up and Technical Report Presentation: about 2 days
⇒At the end of the course, participants will make a Technical Report.

Reference: Tentative Schedule in FYI 2019

Date		Time	Content	Place
2-Sep	Mon		Arrival in Japan	TBIC
3-Sep	Tue	10:00-12:00	Briefing, Orientation	TBIC
		12:00-12:30	Program Orientation	
		14:00-16:00	Project Cycle Management	
4-Sep	Wed	9:45-16:30	Project Cycle Management	TBIC
5-Sep	Thu	9:45-12:30	Presentation of Inception Report	TBIC
		14:00-15:00	Overview of Genetic Resources Center, NARO (NGRC)	NGRC
		15:15-16:30	Gene Bank Facility Tour	NGRC
6-Sep	Fri	AM	Travel to Tokyo	
		11:00-15:30	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Tokyo
7-Sep	Sat			
8-Sep	Sun			
9-Sep	Mon	9:45-12:00	Global Agenda on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGR, CBD, etc.)	NGRC
		13:30-16:30	Evaluation Methods for Plant Genetic Resources (characteristics evaluation, DNA assay)(1)	NGRC
10-Sep	Tue	9:45-12:00	Methods for Exploration of Plant Genetic Resources	NGRC
		13:30-16:00	Evaluation Methods for Plant Genetic Resources (characteristics evaluation, DNA assay)(2)	NGRC
11-Sep	Wed	9:45-12:00	Seed Management at Gene Bank	NGRC
		13:30-16:00	Microbial Genetic Resources and Seed Disease Management	
12-Sep	Thu	TBA	Breeding and Research Station Center for Seeds and Seedlings, NARO (NCSS), or Practice in and around Tsukuba City	Tsukuba City
13-Sep	Fri	9:45-12:00	Seed Stock System Management (including database such as passport data)	NGRC
		13:30-16:00	Ultralow Temperature Storage of Vegetative Propagation Plant	
14-Sep	Sat			
15-Sep	Sun			
16-Sep	Mon	National Holiday		
9/17-10/4			Individual Research	
5-Oct	Sat			
6-Oct	Sun			
7-Oct	Mon		Program Review	
8-Oct	Tue	9:30-12:30	Presentation of Technical Report	TBIC
		13:30-14:15	Evaluation Meeting	
		14:15-14:45	Closing ceremony	
9-Oct	Wed		Leave Japan	

TBIC: JICA Tsukuba Center
NGRC: Genetic Resources Center, NARO
NCSS: Center for Seeds and Seedlings, NARO

III. Conditions and Procedures for Application

1. Expectations for the Participating Organizations:

(1) 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.

(2) This program is enriched with contents and facilitation schemes specially developed in collaboration with relevant prominent organizations in Japan. These unique features enable the project to meet specific requirements of applying organizations and effectively facilitate them toward solutions of the issues and problems.

2. Essential Nominee Qualifications:

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

(1) **Current Duties:** Must be researchers for plant genetic resources in a national genetic resources center or national research institute (including national university).

(2) **Experience** in the relevant field: Must have the occupational experience of more than five (5) years.

(3) **Educational Background:** Must be university graduates.

(4) **Language:** Must have a competent command of spoken and written English, equivalent to TOEFL iBT 100 or more (Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC, etc.)

(5) **Mathematical Skills:** Must have basic mathematical skills, such as Exponent and Logarithm.

(6) **Age**: Between thirty (30) to forty five (45) years old.

(7) **Health**: Must be in good health, both physically and mentally, to participate in the program including field work in Japan. Applicants should answer all the questions of "Medical History" of Application Form truthfully and completely including lifestyle diseases such as hypertension and diabetics. Pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply due to the potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus.

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) **Nominee's English Score Sheet:** To be submitted with the Application Form (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS).

(4) **Questionnaire for Individual Research Program**: To be submitted with the Application Form. Fill in ANNEX Ⅱ of this General Information, and submit it along

with the Application Form.

4. Procedures for Application and Selection:

(1) Submitting the Application Documents:

Closing date for application to the JICA Center in JAPAN: ***July 10, 2019.***

（After receiving applications from the government, the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) will send them to the JICA Center in JAPAN by July 10, 2019）

(2) Selection:

1) 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.
2) 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

The Notice of Acceptance will be issued by the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) **not later than *July 29, 2019*.**

5. Document(s) to be submitted by only accepted participants:

Inception Report -- to be submitted by August 9, 2019:

Before coming to Japan, only accepted candidates are required to prepare an Inception Report (detailed information is provided in the ANNEX Ⅲ. The report should be sent to JICA by ***August 9, 2019***, by e-mail to **tbicttp@jica.go.jp**

6. 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.
(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 course 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 Tsukuba
   (2) Contact: Ms. Makiko HAGIWARA (tbicttp@jica.go.jp)

2. **Implementing Partner:**
   Name: The Genetic Resources Center, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NGRC)
   URL: http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/ngrc/index.html

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:

   JICA Tsukuba Center (JICA TSUKUBA)
   Address: 3-6 Koyadai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-0074, Japan
   TEL: 81-29-838-1111 FAX: 81-29-838-1119
   (where "81" is the country code for Japan, and "29" is the local area code)

   Please refer to facility information of JICA Tsukuba at the URL below.
   https://www.jica.go.jp/tsukuba/english/office/c8h0vm00009ylr70-att/tsukuba_facility.pdf
   The movie on the introduction of the JICA Tsukuba is available:
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKM1iTV-9lg
   If there is no vacancy at JICA Tsukuba, 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 "KENSHU-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. Participants who have successfully completed the course will be awarded a certificate from JICA.

2. Participants must bring a laptop computer (JICA Tsukuba cannot lend it) with Microsoft Office programs, such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. During the course, participants are required to work on the computers, including preparation of reports, a technical report, etc. Most of the accommodations have internet access.

3. Allowances, such as for accommodation, living, clothing, and shipping, will be deposited to your temporary bank account in Japan after 2 to 5 days after your arrival to Japan. It is highly advised to bring some cash in order to spend necessary money for the first 2 to 5 days after your arrival.

4. It is highly recommended that your currency must be exchanged to Japanese Yen at any transit airport or Narita International Airport (NRT) in Chiba prefecture or Haneda International Airport (HND) in Tokyo, Japan soon after your arrival.

5. You can check our location, facility and services on our website and social media.
   - ✧ JICA Tsukuba website〔https://www.jica.go.jp/tsukuba/english/office/index.html〕
   - ✧ JICA Tsukuba Facebook〔https://www.facebook.com/jicatsukuba〕
     You can find posts about on-going KCCPs and stories of ex-participants on our Facebook page.

END

VI. ANNEX Ⅰ:

【List of themes on the Individual Research Program and instructor(s)】

① **Characterization and usage of sorghum genetic resources**
② **DNA assay on evolution of weedy azuki bean**
③ **Diversity analysis/characterization of asian vigna using DNA assay**
④ **Conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources**
⑤ **DNA marker analysis and seeds material analysis on soy beans (cultivated-type and nature-type)**
⑥ **Plant genetic resources management**
⑦ **Character evaluation (screening) of developing plant genetic resources**
⑧ **DNA marker analysis of wheat, barley or melon genetic resources**

① **Characterization and usage of sorghum genetic resources**
Instructor: Dr. Hisato OKUIZUMI
Location: NGRC (Tsukuba City, Ibaraki)
URL: http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/ngrc/index.html

② **DNA assay on evolution of weedy azuki bean**
Instructor: Dr. Ken NAITOU
Location: NGRC (Tsukuba City, Ibaraki)
URL: http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/ngrc/index.html

③ **Diversity analysis/characterization of asian vigna using DNA assay**
Instructor: Dr. Yuu TAKAHASHI
Location: NGRC (Tsukuba City, Ibaraki)
URL: http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/ngrc/index.html

④ **Conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources**
Instructor: Prof. Dr. Kazuo WATANABE
Laboratory: Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences and Tsukuba Plant Innovation Research Center (T-PIRC)
Location: University of Tsukuba (Tsukuba City, Ibaraki)
URL:
Own group: https://gene.t-pirc.tsukuba.ac.jp/Plant/GeneticDiversity/
Its center: https://www.t-pirc.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/
A specific project: http://www.jst.go.jp/global/english/kadai/h2407_mexico.html

⑤ **DNA marker analysis and seeds material analysis on soy beans (cultivated-type and nature-type)**
Instructor: Dr. Jun ABE
Laboratory: Research Faculty of Agriculture
Location: Hokkaido University (Sapporo City, Hokkaido)
URL: http://lab.agr.hokudai.ac.jp/ikushu/idenshigen/summary.html

⑥ **Plant genetic resources management**
Instructor: Prof. Kenji Irie
Location: Tokyo University of Agriculture (Setagaya, Tokyo)
URL: https://www.nodai.ac.jp/english/undergraduate/int/int/

⑦ **Character evaluation (screening) of developing plant genetic resources**
Instructor: Dr. Hiroshi EHARA
Laboratory: Laboratory of Tropical Bioresources,
International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education
Location: University of Nagoya (Nagoya City, Aichi)
URL: https://icrea.agr.nagoya-u.ac.jp/eng/

⑧ **DNA marker analysis of wheat, barley or melon genetic resources**
Instructor: Dr. Kenji KATO
Laboratory: Plant Genetics & Breeding
Location: Okayama University (Okayama City, Okayama)
URL:https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/agr/eng/education/Course_of_Applied_Plant_Science/Plant_Genetics_and_Breeding.html

You CAN NOT change the instructor/laboratory whatever the reasons after the official acceptance for the program by JICA.

VI. ANNEX Ⅱ:

Questionnaire for Individual Research Program
(**To be submitted with Application Form**)

Name of applicant:	
Country:	

1. Select the number and title of the subject of Individual Research Program from ANNEX Ⅰ in accordance with the priority. ***Applicants should select three (3) subjects (1st to 3rd)**	
<1st priority subject>	
<2nd priority subject>	
<3rd priority subject>	

2. Concerning three subjects which you selected from ANNEX Ⅰ, describe technical / administrative problems or constraints on plant genetic resources research from your own job, organization and national levels respectively. ***Please describe each subject (1st to 3rd)**	
<1st priority subject>	
<2nd priority subject>	
<3rd priority subject>	

3. Describe the details of your research proposal for the each selected subject as particular as possible. If the applicant can bring sample(s) from home country for the individual research in Japan, please mention it.	
<1st priority subject>	available sample (if any):
<2nd priority subject>	available sample (if any):
<3rd priority subject>	available sample (if any):

4. Describe the detail of your working experiences (including your research activities).

5. Describe your academic and professional training records concerning three subjects which you selected from ANNEX Ⅰ.		
(Name of institution)	(Period)	(Certificates or titles obtained)

6. List of publications of applicant (title and date of publication)
   If possible, attach some publications to Application Form.

7. Describe main facilities, equipment and materials (available for you).
   And describe main facilities, equipment and materials which you use now.

A. Facilities and equipment in your institute.

Facilities and equipment			custody		
Name	Manufacturer	Model / performance	Institute (other Team)	Your team	Condition for use

B. Facilities and equipment in other institute (available for you).

Facilities and equipment			Belonging organization	Condition for use
Name	Manufacturer	Model / performance		

8. Describe situation of plant genetic resources in your country

9. [Short Essay]

Must be written in English that covers the following below three issues.(A4, within 2 pages)

(1) "What do you currently know about Japan's plant genetic resources?"

(2) "What do you expect to learn from Japan's experience in plant genetic resources?"

(3) "Please describe what you would like to learn from Individual research in detail."
(Please attach or describe if you have your own research plan.)

10. **Letter/Comment to certify your proficiency of English written and signed by your supervisor/organization.**

VI. ANNEX Ⅲ:

About presentation of Inception Report
(For only accepted participants)

After arriving at Japan, we will hold Presentation of Inception Report.

For this presentation, all accepted participants are expected to prepare for the presentation of the Inception Report by following the format in ANNEX Ⅲ.
It should be PowerPoint file, typewritten in English.

It is recommended to utilize pictures, figures, and tables on your file in order to let staffs of JICA and Research Institutions understand the situation of your country enough. It should be submitted to JICA Tsukuba (tbicttp@jica.go.jp) not later than **August 9, 2019** by e-mail.

1. Country of applicant
① outline of country
② situation of plant genetic resources
③ current situation of plant genetic resources activities
④ problems or constraints on plant genetic resources at national level
⑤ list of governmental or private organizations related to plant genetic resources

2. Organization to which applicant belongs
① mandate or responsibility
② structure of the organization by chart (including number of stuffs)
③ plant genetic resources research activities or projects
④ problems or constraints on plant genetic resources at organization level

3. Applicant
① position and responsibilities in detail
② current activities (theme, method/technique, etc.)
③ work environment (colleagues, equipment, etc.)
④ problems or constraints
⑤ expectation for this program
⑥ expected activities after this program

Note: The text should be clear and concise, including figures and tables. Manuscripts should be written in English. And it is recommended to utilize pictures so that situation of respective country can be understood easily.
The presentation time is planed 20 min (included 5 min for Q&A) for each person.

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 and 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:

JICA Tsukuba Center (JICA TSUKUBA)
Address: 3-6 Koyadai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-0074, Japan
TEL: +81-29-838-1744 FAX: +81-29-838-1776