

JICA Tsukuba PROFILE



Where People's Will for a Better World could be Connected and Bear Fruits

JICA Tsukuba

Why is JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) based in Tsukuba? Many may have that question.

JICA Tsukuba has training facilities, including laboratories and agricultural fields, and a lodge to accommodate more than 180 guests. With the support of research institutions in Tsukuba Science City, JICA offers human resource programs such as agricultural and disaster risk reduction to government officials and engineers of developing countries who will lead development in their countries, aiming to increase the population of pro-Japanese and people well-versed in Japan. The facilities include an exhibition and a library that showcase issues happening on the planet and livelihoods of developing countries, and a restaurant that offers dishes from all over the world.

In addition, together with the people of Ibaraki Prefecture and Tochigi Prefecture, we have expanded our efforts to support development education, JICA volunteers, grassroots technical cooperation, and private sector cooperation. In recent years, we have also focused on promoting the SDGs, accepting foreign human resources, and supporting multicultural coexistence. We are also taking on new challenges, such as the Agriculture Co-creation Hub, which addresses agricultural issues in developing countries through co-creation and innovation.

Our aim is to be a place where the desire of the people in Ibaraki Prefecture and Tochigi Prefecture for a peaceful and prosperous world can be connected to as many people as possible and bear fruit together.

Director General of JICA Tsukuba



JICA Tsukuba's Diverse Co-creation Partners

		Local governments	NPOs/NGOs, universities, and educational institutions	Research institutions	Private sector	People interested in international cooperation overseas	People interested in international exchange in Japan
P05	JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program	●	●	●			●
P07	Enhancement of Development Education		●				●
P08	JICA Volunteer Program	●	●		●	●	●
P09	JICA Partnership Program (JPP)	●	●		●	●	
P10	Partnership with Japanese Private Sector				●	●	
P11	Acceptance of Foreign Human Resources and Creation of a Multicultural and Inclusive Society	●	●		●		●
P12	Agriculture Co-Creation Hub and Human Resources Academy for Agricultural and Rural Development	●	●	●	●	●	

*These marks are typical examples. We offer close consultation for other co-creation partnership possibilities as well.



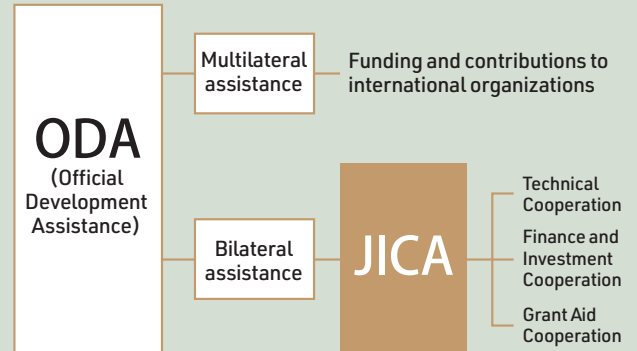
ODA and JICA

Japan launched Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1954 to support the social and economic development of developing countries, and 2024 marked its 70-year anniversary.

Among ODA, JICA is centrally responsible for technical cooperation, finance and investment cooperation, and grant aid cooperation*. JICA, the world's largest bilateral cooperation agency, operates in approximately 150 countries and regions through its approximately 100 overseas offices.

In addition, the 15 domestic bases, which provide diverse services as the front office of JICA, play an important role as a nexus between regions in Japan and developing countries. While co-creating with diverse players, including citizens, NGOs, local governments, and private companies, we promote international cooperation that takes advantage of local characteristics and contribute to regional development.

*Excluding those implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purposes of foreign policy.



History of JICA Tsukuba

1961

Ibaraki International Agricultural Training Center was established in Uchihara, Ibaraki Prefecture. Later, it became Uchihara International Agricultural Training Center, a part of the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA), and started agricultural training for human resources in developing countries.

1980

Tsukuba International Center was established in the southern part of Tsukuba Science City (Koyadai, Tsukuba City) as the eighth international training center of Japan International Cooperation Agency. The following year, Uchihara International Agricultural Training Center joined the area and was renamed Tsukuba International Agricultural Training Center.

1996

The Tsukuba International Center and the Tsukuba International Agricultural Training Center were merged and the Tsukuba International Center (current JICA Tsukuba) was created.



Outline of JICA Tsukuba Organization

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Japan International Cooperation Agency Tsukuba Center (JICA Tsukuba)

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[Publication]

▼Website



▼Facebook



▼ Access to JICA Tsukuba



JICA Tsukuba's liaison office

JICA Tsukuba has an office in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki, and has placed international cooperation promoters as JICA front desks in Tochigi and Ibaraki. For international cooperation projects or cooperation with JICA Tsukuba, please feel free to contact our nearby regional office.

JICA Tochigi Desk

Tochigi International Association
(Tochigi International Exchange Center, 9- 14
Honcho, Utsunomiya City, Tochigi Prefecture)
Tel / 028-621-0777
E-mail/ jicadpd-desk-tochigiken@jica.go.jp

JICA Ibaraki Desk

Ibaraki International Association
(The Hirosawa City Hall annex 2F, 745
Ushirokawa, Senba-cho, Mito City, Ibaraki
Prefecture)
Tel / 029-241-1611
E-mail/ jicadpd-desk-ibarakiken@jica.go.jp

JICA Tsukuba

3-6 Koyadai, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture





JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)



Sixty years of fostering leaders of nation building around the world

JICA Tsukuba annually welcomes more than 800 officials and professionals from more than 100 countries for their capacity development. The agricultural KCCPs, which use on-site farmland, greenhouses, and training facilities, enables participants to learn the production process from seeding to post-harvest processing, for 8 to 10 months. In addition, in cooperation with research institutions of Tsukuba Science City, more than 80 KCCPs are provided annually in the areas of disaster risk reduction, geospatial information, climate change countermeasures, and education.

In addition to learning corresponding technologies, development experiences and know-hows in Japan are shared with the participants from developing countries by various cooperating organizations such as government agencies, municipalities, universities, public interest corporations, private companies, and NGOs. The participants, under the guidance of instructors, try to apply acquired knowledge and techniques to solve the development issues in their own countries by formulating solutions and an action plan after returning to their countries. Through a series of discussions with their fellow participants and Japanese attendees, they can learn from each other and build relationships to advance mutual development. This is one of the characteristics of JICA KCCP.

I started a vegetable direct sales shop in Sri Lanka.

I'm Susil from Sri Lanka. I was impressed by "Pocket Farm Doki Doki," a farm shop in Ushiku, Ibaraki, where I visited. After returning from Japan, I secured funding of 8 million Sri Lankan rupees (approximately 4 million yen) and established a direct sales shop with the cooperation of the municipality and local youth association. My goal is to create a place where both producers and consumers benefit.



Mr. Susil from Sri Lanka, who participated in "Vegetable Production Technology Course for Improving the Livelihoods of Small Farmers JFY 2022"



Participants from the Asia-Pacific region learning vegetable cultivation techniques



Microscopy practice at JICA Tsukuba's laboratory to study diseases of upland rice



Government officials from African countries, who work on improvement of people's nutrition, tried school lunches in Japan.



Developing excellent leaders for partner countries with the cooperation of local universities

JICA Tsukuba supports foreign students studying for master's and doctoral programs in Japan. With the cooperation of universities and educational institutions in Ibaraki and Tochigi, JICA provides opportunities for them to share Japan's modern development experience, which differs from that of Europe and the United States, as well as its knowledge as a post-war donor country, in order to develop human resources who will lead the future and development of many countries. JICA Scholars are mainly government officials and researchers of developing countries, and their research fields range from humanities and social sciences, public policy, agriculture, engineering, and environmental sciences.

For JICA Scholars studying in Japan for more than two years, JICA Tsukuba offers a regional understanding program that shares Japanese region's unique development process and opportunities such as local events and school visits. We hope that those scholars will help promote internationalization of Ibaraki and Tochigi and increase cross-cultural understanding of the residents. Also, by learning about Japanese culture and identity, the scholars may eventually become pro-Japanese and well-versed in Japan, so that they will bridge a divide between Japan and their countries. Some programs offer internship at Japanese companies, and JICA scholars are expected to act as middleperson for Japanese companies looking for business opportunities in developing countries.

"I want to be a bridge between Japan and Samoa in the future."

I am Gracia. I came to Japan from Samoa in 2022 as a JICA Scholar. Currently, I am studying biomaterials used in medical treatment for humans in my master's program at the University of Tsukuba. Initially, I felt lonely being away from my home country, but through meeting many people, I learned their politeness and kindness and fell in love with Japan. Upon my return to Samoa, I hope to use the skills and knowledge I gained in Japan for the development of Samoa in the field of research and development.



Ms. Gracia visited Tsukuba Botanical Garden with students from the same graduate school.



Participants from Latin America who learned the know-how of regional revitalization such as soba noodle cooking experience



Civil engineers who work on landslide disaster prevention and mitigation in their countries visited a landslide control site. (Nikko, Tochigi)



JICA Scholars participated in a "Regional Understanding Program" and were explained on cultivation techniques at a strawberry farm in Tochigi.



Development Education Support Program



Promoting international understanding education and active learning in schools and communities

JICA offers various educational programs to help students from elementary to university levels and community members learn about the challenges faced by developing countries, understand our global connections, and take actions on global issues. Our goal is to inspire individuals to perceive global issues as personal matters, think critically about them, and take action. Discover ways to contribute to international cooperation through these experiences.

In addition to our "Visit Program," we offer the "International Cooperation Outreach Seminars," where JICA volunteers, staff, and overseas participants are dispatched to schools and other institutions as lecturers. We also provide the "International Cooperation Understanding Program," allowing high school, university, and graduate students to study international cooperation intensively. Additionally, we support teachers who wish to implement international understanding education in their schools through the "International Understanding Education Seminar" and the "Overseas Study Tour." Several times a year, we hold special events and exhibitions that local residents and young children can easily enjoy.

Experience the World! JICA Tsukuba Visit Program

We offer a program that combines exhibits where you can see, hear, and touch the realities of life in developing countries, understand global issues, and learn about actual international cooperation efforts. The program includes JICA Volunteer's activities and experiences in developing countries, as well as agricultural training facilities tours. This program is not only for international understanding education but also serves as a resource for career education and global human resource development. It can be utilized for school field trips, study tours, and teacher training sessions.



High school students trying on traditional costumes from around the world, experiencing the cultures and climates of various countries and regions.



A former JICA Volunteer sharing their experiences in a developing country during an "International Cooperation Outreach Seminar" at a school.



Hands-on programs for high school and college students, who are interested in international cooperation and development assistance



This elementary school teacher from Tochigi, who participated in overseas training for teachers, practices education for sustainable development at her own school.



JICA Volunteer Program



Experience in developing countries is needed for the diversification of Japan

The JICA volunteer program recruits people (20 to 69 years old) who wish to utilize their skills, knowledge, and experience for the benefit of people in developing countries, and dispatches them to those countries as JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs). As a general rule, JOCVs stay and work with local people for two years, speak the local language, and work to solve problems while fostering mutual understanding.

Since its first dispatch to Laos in 1965, more than 55,000 JICA volunteers have worked alongside local communities in developing countries. About 1,200 people from Ibaraki and 780 people from Tochigi have participated in the program (as of the end of January 2024) and have been actively contributing to international cooperation. In recent years, it has been noted that the JICA volunteers' experience in building trust across differences in language, culture, and values have been increasingly recognized for their potential contribution to Japan's local communities. In Ibaraki and Tochigi, many former JICA volunteers have actively worked on revitalization of communities and multicultural coexistence in Japan.

Costa Rica is now my second home

Although I sometimes struggled with cultural differences and languages during the mission, thanks to the support of the locals, I was able to complete two years of my volunteer work. After returning to Japan, I continued working as an occupational therapist and launched NatuRica, a program to support groups of disabled persons in Costa Rica. I hope to continue import and sales of coffee and chocolate from Costa Rica that make myself and others happy.



Ai Oshima from Moriya City, Ibaraki Prefecture worked as an occupational therapist at a special needs school in Costa Rica.



Junko Asakawa from Utsunomiya City, Tochigi, taught dressmaking to women in Egypt, including embroidery and cloth accessory making.



So Nagakura from Sano City, Tochigi taught math class at an elementary school in Nicaragua.



Miyuki Nakayama worked as a public health nurse in Bolivia and now works on multicultural coexistence efforts in Shimotsuma City, Ibaraki.



JICA Partnership Program: JPP



We support your passion to do something for the world

JICA promotes international cooperation, in collaboration with a variety of Japanese partners, including NGOs, local governments, universities, and private companies located in Japan. Through these activities, JICA shares world-wide situations and problems in developing countries widely in Japan, aiming at raising awareness and calling commitments for much support from Japanese local citizens. Among these activities, JICA Partnership Program: JPP is widely open to those who are willing to implement international cooperation activities. This program is supposed to be planned and proposed by the Japanese local citizens, who have specific knowledge and techniques useful for people in developing countries and implemented as a joint project with JICA.

So far, more than 30 projects have already been implemented in many countries with the support by organizations of Ibaraki-prefecture and Tochigi-prefectures. These projects have been implemented in a wide range of areas such as agriculture, rural development, women's empowerment, and medical personnel development as well as technical guidance for waste disposal management and organic farming in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. JICA Tsukuba provides information and specific assistance to those who are interested in this JPP to plan, formulate, and implement their projects in accordance with various scales and types of cooperation.

Building trust with the local people is a key to success

IFPat is a non-profit organization based in Tsukuba City that conducts activities to improve El Salvadoran's lives in Latin America. Its goal is to enable local women and young people to improve their lives with their will. The organization trains lifestyle-improvement facilitators, conducts home visits, and provides learning opportunities through group activities. By solving longstanding problems by themselves through changing mindset and behavior patterns at the individual level, people become greatly pleased with the results and gain confidence, which leads to the next step.



The woman (right), who used to be an illiterate, became able to write three letters of her name, encouraged by the community extended worker (left).



The Vietnamese from Son La Province visited Kasama City in Ibaraki for learning flower cultivation to create future local specialties of their village.



An eco-station (a waste-collecting facility) that is built in Timor-Leste supported by JICA and Donkame Co., Ltd. in Haga-machi, Tochigi



The University of Tsukuba and other Japanese institutions introduce emergency medical service support system (EMS) in Laos, aiming for expediting efficient patient transportation to hospitals.



Public-Private Partnerships



Working with Japanese private sector to address challenges of developing countries

Japanese private companies have excellent products, technologies, and knowledge in various fields. By utilizing such resources in developing countries, their development challenges may be resolved. JICA's partnership with Japanese private sector supports global expansion of Japanese companies with excellent products and technologies through surveys, which identify their needs and business feasibility. This program contributes to advancement of developing countries by solving their local, social, and economic issues along the way.

Ibaraki and Tochigi Prefectures are located in the northern part of the Tokyo metropolitan area and are well known as cluster areas of diverse and advanced manufacturing industries, as well as science and technology. Both prefectures also exhibit some of the largest agricultural production values in the nation. As there are many unique companies that take advantage of these regional resources, there must be many products and technologies that can help address the concerns of many developing countries. JICA Tsukuba responds to concerns of companies planning to expand their businesses globally, which include lack of experience, know-how, funds and human resources for preliminary research in order to collect local information, and formulates and verify business models in developing countries.

Companies with proprietary technology find business opportunities overseas

Hokken Co., Ltd., located in Mibu-cho, Tochigi, is developing "shiitake" mushroom varieties that are resistant to low, medium, and high temperatures. Based on its know-how, the company is formulating a business model that can provide a stable supply of "shiitake" mushrooms to the market in Nepal by domestically manufacturing seed beds with heat tolerant seeds that can be grown naturally in mid-summer. JICA supports this project, which will contribute to the improvement the income of small-scale shiitake mushroom farmers in the area.



Employees of the Hokken who visited the area in Nepal with a JICA official



Kantoh Nosan Co., Ltd. (Nasu-gun, Tochigi) aims to produce organic nursery soil for horticulture in Thailand.



Tsuruoka Co., Ltd. (Yuki City, Ibaraki) plans on promoting proper disposal of end-of-life vehicles in the Philippines.



Ajirushi Inc. (Hitachinaka City, Ibaraki) works to promote the processing technology of ornate octopus, which are not effectively consumed in Indonesia.



Accepting Foreign Human Resources and Supporting Multicultural Coexistence



Contributing to solving local issues in Ibaraki and Tochigi

Ibaraki and Tochigi are facing labor shortages due to the declining birthrate and aging population and the outflow of the population to outside the prefecture. Both prefectures welcome foreign nationals who want to work and live there. With the trusting relationship built with the developing countries and know-how on human resource development cultivated through supporting developing countries, JICA assists human resource development through supporting the promotion of employment of foreign workers in Japan, which benefits economic growth of their countries sending foreign workers and enhances human rights. In addition, JICA supports multicultural coexistence in Japan. Specifically, JICA Tsukuba cooperates with the local governments, companies, and private sectors in Ibaraki and Tochigi and gives seminars to promote employment of foreign workers from developing countries, in addition to providing opportunities to exchange opinions to private sectors in the manufacturing and nursing care sectors, which are facing shortages of workforce.

Moreover, in cooperation with the local governments, JICA makes efforts on human resource development, which will link the local communities of foreigners with the government and Japanese residents. JICA also creates educational materials to promote learning for children of immigrant families in cooperation with the governments and local NPOs.

Supporting the local governments contributing to the achievement of SDGs

Sustainable community development and local revitalization are essential in regional development, and thus an increasing number of local governments are introducing SDGs to promote such initiatives. JICA Tsukuba and the Koga City government in Ibaraki, which declared to promote the SDGs in 2021, concluded a memorandum of cooperation for the promotion of local revitalization driven by promoting the SDGs. As a joint effort with the government, JICA provides SDGs seminar to the city officials and mutual learning opportunities for private companies, organizations, and schools working on sustainable development in the city.



Signed a memorandum of cooperation on SDGs with Koga City, Ibaraki in 2021



Program for Foreign Peer Supporters, jointly organized with Ibaraki NPO Center Commons



Manufacturers from Ibaraki held a seminar to introduce advantages of working for small and medium enterprises at the Mongolia-Japan Center.



Traffic safety class for foreigners was given in cooperation with companies in Mooka City, Tochigi.



Agriculture Co-creation Hub and Human Resources Academy for Agricultural and Rural Development



Harnessing local advantages to solve global challenges

JICA Tsukuba has facilities such as fields, greenhouses, and laboratories and has been providing practical agricultural training to approximately 800 trainees from developing countries annually. Tsukuba Science City is home to a number of research institutions, including the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization. The JICA Tsukuba Agri Co-Creation Hub aims to contribute to solving problems faced in developing countries. This hub uses its experience and various resources to connect international government officials of agricultural sectors and extension workers with collaborative partners, including research institutes and private companies in Japan.

In recent years, JICA has also developed an academy for human resource development in agriculture, which provides preparatory training for JOCV and brush-up training for professionals. The purpose of this project is to provide the volunteers practical agricultural techniques and knowledge through practical field work, so that they will be able to respond to changing agricultural development issues. This project also offers programs for agricultural high schools and agriculture-major university students and graduate schools who will support agriculture in Japan and overseas. JICA Tsukuba aims to become a hub for cultivating and developing human resources in the agricultural sector for international cooperation.

Connecting Global Challenges with Japanese Technology: Business Matching Seminar

This co-creation seminars have been held at the JICA Tsukuba training facility, bringing together JICA participants and Japanese private companies. The participants who have come to Japan from developing countries to solve their countries' challenges showed great interest in the agricultural technologies, products, and services offered by participating companies.



JICA participants observe a simple transplanter demonstration by a Japanese company



Participating companies ask questions such as product requirements in developing countries.



New agricultural knowledge and technologies seminars for JICA experts are held at JICA Tsukuba.

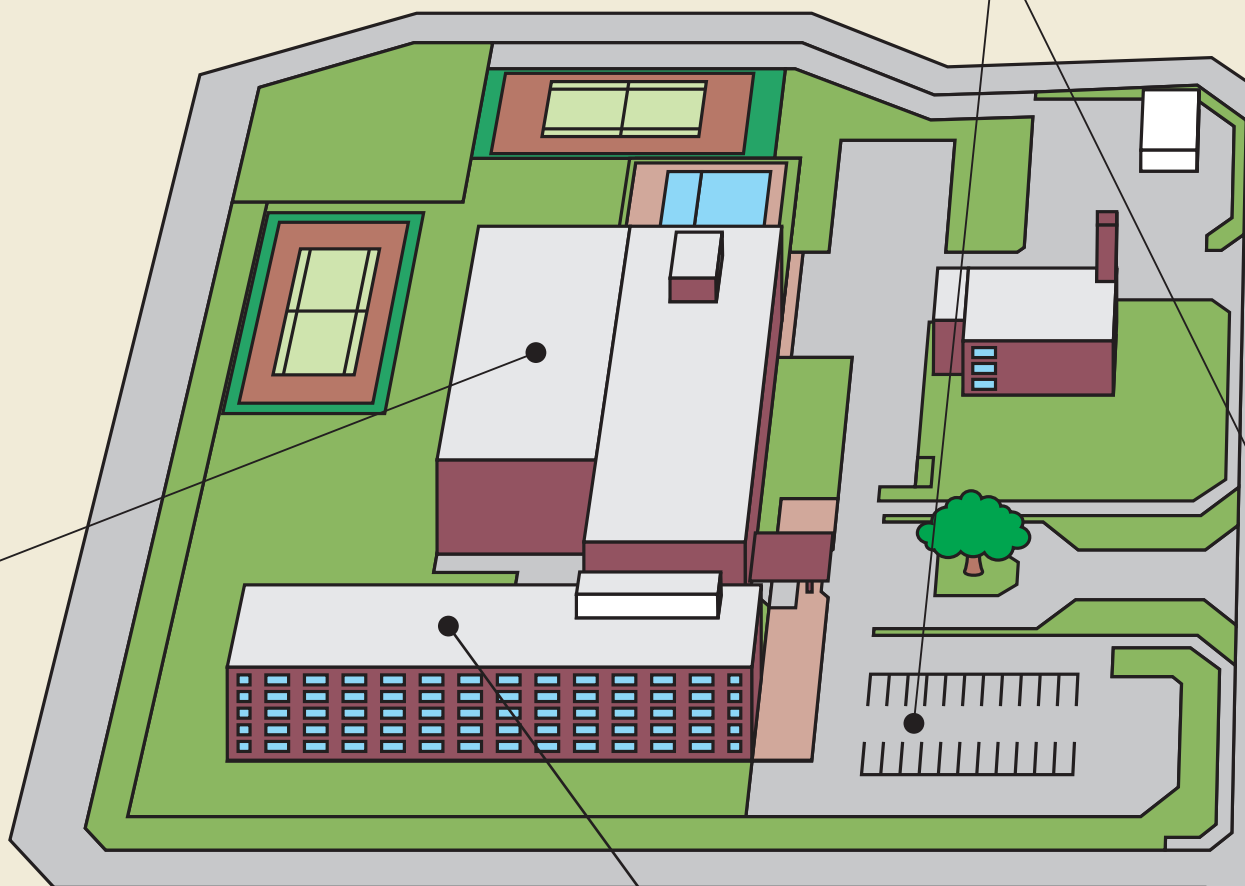


JICA also provides preparatory training on agriculture for JOCVs.

JICA Tsukuba Map

Visitor parking lot

Please use this parking lot when you come by car.



Keyaki Building

The Keyaki Building is open to the public, and anyone can use it during business hours. When you come, please go to the front desk on the first floor to register.

Exhibition corner



[Opening hours] 10:00 to 17:00
There are three-dimensional exhibits and panels for you, so you can think and learn about JICA's international cooperation efforts, the lives of people in developing countries, and the SDGs. You can also touch and see the folk costumes, folk crafts, and instruments donated by JICA participants.

Restaurant NERICA



[Opening hours] Lunch and dinner (For details on opening hours, see JICA Tsukuba's website)
The menu is tailored to the preferences of JICA participants visiting from all over the world, and every visitor can enjoy the rare ethnic dishes.

Library



[Service hours]
Weekdays 10:00 to 12:00, 13:00 to 18:00
[Closed days] Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, New Year's holidays
We have many books, DVDs, and children's books from around the world about international cooperation, international education, and SDGs. We welcome everyone to use the facility (check out is available only for high school students and above).

Accommodation Building

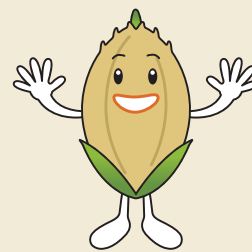


We provide 183 rooms for JICA participants who come to Japan from all over the world. Each floor has a lounge, laundry room, kitchenette, and ice machine.

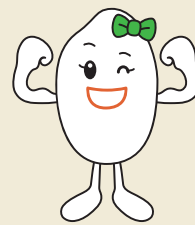
Study Building



There are an office for JICA Tsukuba staff and lecture rooms for the Knowledge Co-Creation Program.



Momitan



Kometan

They are characters of unhulled rice and hulled rice. They represent JICA Tsukuba's goal, which is to be a place where people's will for a better world could be connected and bear fruits.



Training facility

There are four Practice Buildings (Irrigation and Drainage, Agricultural Mechanization, Vegetable Production and Rice Cultivation), Greenhouses, Dry Fields, and Paddy Fields. JICA participants learn agricultural techniques through experiments and practical hands-on training.



Practice Building

Farmland



Greenhouse



JICA Tsukuba

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