

OUTLINE OF
GROUP AND REGION-FOCUSED
TRAINING PROGRAMS IN JAPANESE
FISCAL YEAR 2009

COURSES STARTING BETWEEN APRIL 2009 AND MARCH 2010

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
(JICA)

Foreword:

A new JICA and its Program for Training & Dialogue

Since its re-organization as an independent administrative institution in October 2003, JICA has moved forward its reform activities with three major pillars: field based management, human security, and effective, efficient and prompt operation. In addition to this initial reform plan, in March 2005, JICA announced the second part of its reform plan. At the core of this second phase reform plan is the review of JICA's training & dialogue program conducted in Japan, particularly with respect to its effectiveness and appropriateness in meeting the evolving needs of its development partners.

Technical Cooperation conducted in Japan

JICA's training & dialogue program conducted in Japan has been occupying an important place in JICA's operations. Being conducted in Japan, the Program can mobilize inputs from almost every corner of the society. As this booklet illustrates, more than 500 courses/projects/forums of the JICA's training & dialogue program cover a wide range of issues such as agricultural technology, advanced industrial technology, hospital management and local governance systems to name a few. Being implemented in collaboration with Japan's leading organizations and academics in respective fields, the Program could provide ideal opportunities to those who would try to find answers for their own issues referring to Japan's experiences.

While recognizing the positive role that the Program can play, we are at the same time increasingly cognizant of the challenges to make it more relevant to practical needs and concrete actions in partner countries. For example, appropriate measures to encourage the ex-participants to put their acquired knowledge in practice need to be strengthened, especially for the capacity development of the organizations they work for. Based on this recognition, JICA is now starting to make serious efforts to meet such challenges. Our efforts include the integration of preparatory sessions and post-program activities in some of the course/projects/forums. Likewise, a systematic follow-up support for motivated ex-participants and interested organizations is going to be strengthened.

This booklet provides information on such efforts for improvement. The reader may wish to refer to such information and, where applicable, to use JICA's training & dialogue program not merely as a means of enhancing skills/knowledge of any particular individuals but also in relation to organizational capacity development needs.

Japanese Development Experience

Japan was one of the first non-European countries to have successfully modernized and industrialized its economy. At the core of this process 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 the local skills, knowledge and initiatives. They finally became internalized in the Japanese society to suit its local needs and conditions.

From engineering technology to production management methods; from pollution prevention technology to rural community development, most of the know-how that has enabled Japan to become what it is today has emanated from this “*adoption and adaptation*” processes, which, of course, have accompanied countless failures and errors behind success stories. We presume that such experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, will be useful to our partners who are struggling with the current challenges facing 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.

I therefore would like to invite as many leaders of partner countries as possible to come and visit us, to mingle with Japanese people, witness the advantages as well as the disadvantages of Japanese systems, so that the integration of their findings will become useful to the accomplishment of their developmental objectives.

Takashi Yoshida
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