The objective of the course is that participants understand issues and problems and abstract counter measures on reducing educational disparities in basic education in their respective countries by referring to successful experiences of Japan and Okinawa Prefecture, and formulate an action plan for reducing disparities in basic education.

1. To sort out issues and problems on basic education in terms of disparities of respective countries by comparing with those of Okinawa and Japan.
2. To analyze measures for improvement of disparities in basic education between central and remote areas by referring to the case and experience of Okinawa Prefecture and abstract applicable measures in respective countries.
3. To formulate an action plan for reducing disparities in basic education in respective countries.

Many developing countries are still facing difficulties in providing equal level of basic education within its country for many reasons such as lacking of human resource, budget, equipment and facilities. Especially, regional disparities between urban and rural/remote areas are serious because of low accessibility to schools, and inadequate deployment of teachers.

Okinawa Prefecture, which is the southernmost regional government in Japan, consists of numerous remote islands. This local government addressed to take measures for improvement on education problems in its remote area. In addition, Okinawa has an experience of reconstruction after the World War II, where used to be suffering from poor conditions with insufficient number of teachers, teaching materials, and facilities. By taking various measures to improve education systems, Okinawa succeeded in reconstruction of education.

This course aims to introduce successful experiences in Japan and Okinawa Prefecture and provide participants keys to solve issues and problems of disparities in basic education.