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JOCV PROGRAM IN MICRONESIA



KAMORALE



LEADING THE WORLD WITH TRUST



A Legacy of Friendship. A Future of Hope.

Since 1989, 480 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) have journeyed far from home to stand alongside the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. They came not only as volunteers — but as teachers, nurses, farmers, mentors, and friends. Through classrooms, clinics, communities, and coastlines, they have shared knowledge, built capacity, and strengthened bonds that go beyond borders. Every lesson taught, every hand extended, every life touched has become part of a beautiful story of partnership between Micronesia and Japan.

Today, as we honor this legacy beneath the JOCV emblem, we celebrate more than a number — we celebrate 480 hearts committed to service, unity, and hope.

And the journey continues.

JOCV — Together in Service. Together in Friendship. Together for the Future.

WHAT IS JOCV PROGRAM?

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a program operated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that dispatches Japanese citizens who wish to contribute to developing countries.

Since its first dispatch to LAOS in 1965 more than 54,000 JICA volunteers have worked alongside local communities.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) received its first batch of JOCV in 1989. Initially the program focused on education and health, but has since expanded fields like agriculture, environment and sports. Today, Micronesia is honored to have active JOCV Volunteers proudly serving within the FSM communities, continuing this long tradition of partnership and people to people cooperation.

3 MAIN OBJECTIVES OF JOCV PROGRAM

- To cooperate in the economic and social development, as well as the reconstruction of developing
- To deepen mutual understanding and coexistence in cross-cultural societies
- To give back the volunteer experience to society

JOCV ROLES IN MICRONESIA



Technical Assistance:
Providing specialized skills and expertise in assigned sectors aligned with host-country needs.



Capacity Building:
Strengthening human resources and institutional capabilities for long-term impact.



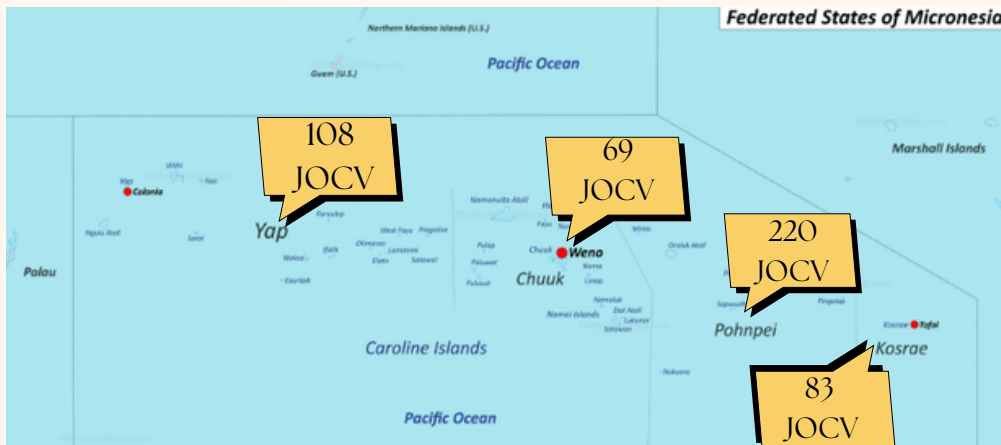
Cultural Exchange: Enhancing mutual understanding and diplomatic goodwill between Japan and the host country.



Grassroots Development: Supporting community-based initiatives that directly benefit local populations



Sustainable Development: Ensuring continuity of programs through local ownerships, skill transfer, and appropriate technology.



JAPAN OVERSEAS COOPERATION VOLUNTEERS IN MICRONESIA



BATCH 2024-1

JOCV Distribution in Sectors:
Health, Primary Education, Music, Pharmacy, Environment Education



BATCH 2024-2

JOCV Distribution in Sectors:
Health, Primary Education, Japanese Language, Tennis, Vegetable growing



BATCH 2024-3

JOCV Distribution in Sectors:
Health and Primary Education



BATCH 2025-1

JOCV Distribution in Sectors:
Health, Primary Education, Baseball, Home arts and life improvement



BATCH 2025-2

JOCV Distribution in Sectors:
Primary Education

OTHER JOCV ACTIVITIES IN MICRONESIA



Art materials for Art Class
Nett Elementary School



Virtual Cultural Exchange
Pohnpei Catholic School



Nursing Class
College of Micronesia-FSM

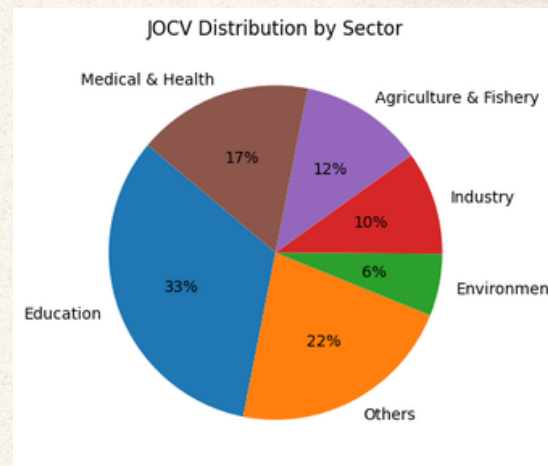


Mathematics tutorial session for
both students and teachers



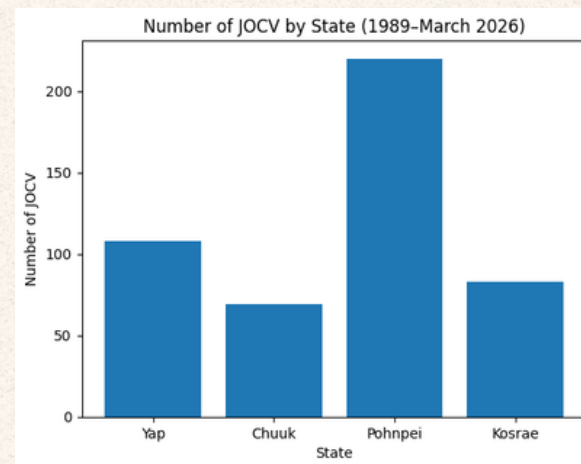
Participating in World Food Day
in Yap State

JOVC STATISTICS REPORT IN MICRONESIA



From 1989 to March 2026, a total of four hundred eighty (480) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) have contributed across FSM, with strong engagement in Education and Health sectors and the highest concentration of volunteers serving in the Federated States of Micronesia.

JOVC DISTRIBUTION BY STATES IN MICRONESIA



The Bar graph shows the number of JOVC deployed to each State
 Pohnpei State: 220 Volunteers
 Yap State: 108 Volunteers
 Kosrae State: 83 Volunteers
 Chuuk State: 69 Volunteers

TYPE OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



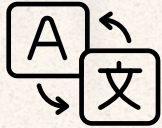
Agriculture/ Forestry/ Fisheries
Categories: Food crops & Rice Culture, Vegetable Growing, Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Afforestation, Aquaculture, and others.



Public Work / Utilities
Categories: Civil Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Surveying, Telecommunications, and others.



Manufacturing / Energy
Categories: Machine Tools, Marine Engines, Electric and Electronic Equipment, Automobile Maintenance, Pottery, and others



Japanese Language Education
Categories: Japanese Language Education



Administration/ Business/ Tourism:
Categories: Community Development, Public Administration, Disaster Relief, Statistics, Computer Technology, Marketing, Tourism, and others.



Education
Categories: Youth Activities, Environmental Education, Science Education, Physical Education, Primary School Education and others.



Medical Care / health Care / Social Welfare
Categories: Nursing, Public Health Nursing, Midwifery, Physical Therapy, Infection and HIV/ Aids Control and others.



Sports
Categories: Baseball, Judo, Tennis, Gymnastics, Swimming, and others.

JOCV ACTIVITIES IN MICRONESIA



Primary School Education:
Mathematics tablet application
Ohmine Elementary School



Youth Activities:
Nan Madol tour guide
Madolenihmw High School



Baseball:
Junior League Baseball Training
Pohnpei Spanish Wall



Nutrition:
Sharing Health Diet/ Lifestyle
Pohnpei Public Health



Vegetable Growing:
Transplanting seedlings
College of Micronesia-CTEC

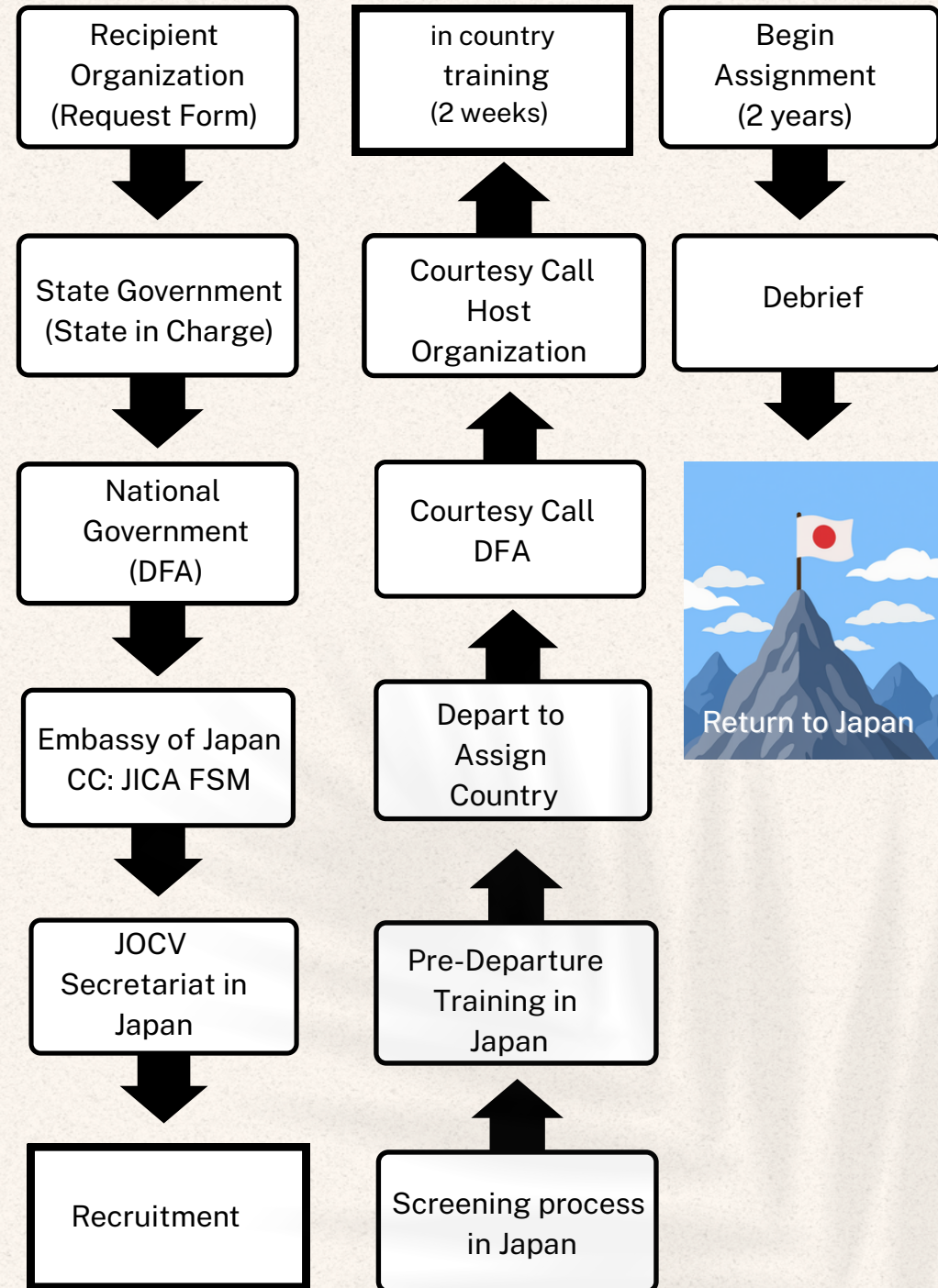
JOCV Storie's in Micronesia



Ms. Miki KOBAYASHI
AWAK ELEMETARY SCHOOL
FIELD: PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION
STATE: Pohnpei State

Participating in a short-term volunteer program during a summer break from teaching really opened my eyes. It sparked my interest in JICA Volunteer activities in developing countries. I remember thinking how meaningful it would be to engage mire deeply, over a longer period, and to make use of my experience as a teacher. That's when I decided to apply for the JOCV Program. On my first day of homestay, I was incredibly nervous. Stepping into a different culture without understanding the local language took a lot of courage. But my host family welcomed me so warmly the moment I arrived, and slowly my anxiety started to fade. Living there was full of discoveries. Even though not knowing many things made daily life a challenge, I tried to ask questions right away whenever I didn't understand something and I shared about myself as well. Little by little, we overcame misunderstandings together, and our mutual understanding grew stronger day by day. As a member of the primary school education team, I was dispatched to a local elementary school. My main duties involved teaching lessons to improve students' basic arithmetic's skills and providing training to help teachers strengthen their mathematics instruction, adjusting everything to the local conditions and needs. Working closely with the students and teachers became one of the most meaningful parts of my time there. During my stay, I experienced the loss of a beloved family member. In Pohnpei, funeral rites last for about a week. So many family members and relatives gathered that the house couldn't contain everyone. We sang songs, held each other, and wept through the night, remembering the person we lost. Those moments made me rethink what family and life truly mean. From training until the very end of my assignment, I met so many people and learned so many things. I gained experiences I would never have had if I hadn't chosen this path. I'm deeply grateful. I want to carry what I've learned and use it in new ways moving forward.

HOW TO REQUEST JOCV



JOCV Storie's in Micronesia



Mr. Yoshikatsu TANAKA
FSM BASEBALL / SOFTBALL
FEDERATION
FIELD: BASEBALL
STATE: Pohnpei

My first impressions since I came to Pohnpei are the people's kindness and the children's energy. Everyone welcomed me warmly when we met for the first time. People always greet me with a good smile whenever we meet, and they help me whenever I have trouble. I think that the strong connections with family and friends are also one of Pohnpei's charm. From now on, I want to further experience local life, food and culture, and want to visit the great places experience the nature and witness the island beauty. Of course, one of my greatest purposes is to develop baseball in Pohnpei. I want to share both the skills and the joy of the game. Let's enjoy baseball together. I look forward to continuing this journey together with you. Thank you. Kalangan. Arigatou!



Ms. Yuka SEGAWA
YAP Memorial State
Hospital
Field: Nurse
State: Yap State

I work as a nurse in the public health Department of Yap State Hospital, providing education to staff and community members. My father was a former JOCV Volunteer, so I have known about the program since I was a child. After becoming a nurse, I wanted to work not only in Japan but also contribute globally. With that desire to help others, even in small way, I decided to join the JOCV. Before being dispatched as a JOCV, I didn't know very much about the country of Micronesia. After arriving in Yap, I noticed how well the plants and trees were maintained, and how clean the island was with almost no trash on the ground. Because it was my first time living abroad for a long period, I felt quite anxious. However, people here are serene, and they welcomed me warmly even though I had just arrived. I also remember feeling relieved that the food suited my taste, as many dishes use soy sauce as a main seasoning. Yap places great importance on tradition, and I feel that the sense of respect shown in many situations is like Japanese culture. Through activities such as weaving baskets from coconut leaves, making flower garlands, and participating in homestays, I have been able to experience the local culture firsthand. I am still exploring what kinds of activities would be most helpful for everyone, and I hope to continue trying different approaches. Thank you for always offering warm words about my work, and for participating sincerely in my trainings even my English is not perfect. I truly appreciate your support.

JOCV Storie's in Micronesia



Ms. Miyu NAMEKAWA
Madolenihmw High School (MHS)
Field: Youth Activity
State: Pohnpei State

I am currently serving at Madolenihmw High School, where I support youth sports activities, help plan Nan Madol tours for foreign visitors led by our students and assist in improving our school library. When I first decided to volunteer, my motivation was simple but meaningful; I wanted to understand a country beyond what books, videos, or short trips could ever teach me. I wanted to be here-to see real life, learn from real people, and experience everyday moments that only become visible when you live within a community. That desire to learn from reality brought me to Pohnpei. My first impression upon arriving in my host community was unforgettable. I was immediately surrounded by island's lush green mountains, the thick forests, and a peaceful, slow-paced atmosphere that felt completely different from what I was used to. Living alone without a car was challenging at first, but the kindness of my host family and the people of the community helped me overcome it. I will never forget the people who stopped their cars, rolled down their car window, and asked "You need a ride?", "Where are you going?". Those small acts of kindness became huge sources of support. As I settled into life here, I also began to experience Pohnpeian Culture in ways that touched my heart. Sharing a single meal together, eating with our hands, and hearing "kohdo mwonge"- an invitation filled with warmth-taught me the deeper meaning of connection. Those words made me feel accepted, welcomed, and cared for. Each shared meal became a moment of gratitude and belonging. Now as I continue my volunteer activities, I find myself reflecting often on what it truly means to be a JICA Volunteer.



Mr. Yoshihiro KITAURA
Kosrae Island Resource
Management (KIRMA)
Field: Environment Education
State: Kosrae State

I am a JICA Volunteer engaged in environmental protection awareness activities for local residents as well as elementary and high school students. I joined the JICA Volunteer Program with the belief that working in a community with different cultures and values would allow me to grow personally while contributing to regional development. When I first arrived in my host community, I focused on building relationships of trust by actively participating in local events and making a sincere effort to understand the culture and perspectives of the people. Through these experiences, I learned that ceremonial events and funerals hold deep significance in the community, serving as important spaces where residents support one another. By taking part in these occasions, I was able to strengthen my connections with community members and build mutual trust. Reflecting on my experience to date, I believe that respecting local culture and working alongside residents is essential for meaningful and sustainable cooperation. I am deeply grateful to the host community for their warmth, hospitality, and for generously sharing their customs and way of life.