

Japan's Experience for Future Leaders of Developing Countries

The JICA Development Studies Program was launched for scholars from developing countries to learn experiences from both Japan's modernization and assistance for developing countries. This section talks about these goals.

Two Programs, Co-organized with Partner Universities in Japan

JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) was established for future leaders of developing countries. The Program offers them the opportunity to learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences, which differs from those of Europe and the U.S.. It also contains wisdom gained as a country that provided cooperation toward the progress of developing countries after World War II. JICA started

the program, in October 2018, with universities that share the JICA-DSP vision. JICA collaborates with these universities and provides two programs for international students ("JICA scholars") in master's or doctor's degree courses in Japan.

The first program is "Understanding the Japanese Development Experience (the Common Program)," where students learn about Japan's modernization process beginning with the Meiji Restoration, postwar high economic growth, and contribution to

international cooperation on development. JICA scholars around Japan gather at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, or at the International University of Japan (IUJ) in Nigata. They have five days of intensive lectures and discuss how they use Japan's experience for the development of home countries. The second is the "Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities (the Individual Programs)." In this program, alongside Japanese students, JICA scholars take classes in English focused on how modern (prewar) Japan experienced development in a wide range of fields, including politics, law, economics, social development, science and technology, and innovation.

overseas systems and hungrily adopted the ideas it felt would work. This course is not merely about Japanese history, it is about learning the processes." Regarding the Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities course, Mr. Konya discusses his expectations for the future careers of JICA scholars. "I want them to become leaders who take a long-term perspective and work for the development of their own country by formulating and implementing policies based on a long-term vision. I hope that the program will foster leaders who will maintain a long-lasting bilateral relationship between each country and Japan, and hope to work together to realize a peaceful, free, and prosperous world, which Japan values so much."

Fostering Future Leaders in Developing Countries

Mr. Konya Kenichi, Director of Office for JICA Development Studies Program, says, "Not all of Japan's modernization history is applicable to developing countries. At the time, Japan was desperately trying to find ways to deal with the world on an equal basis and survive. It actively investigated

At present, 86 universities have shared the JICA-DSP concept and signed on a memorandum of cooperation. Of these, 21 universities provide 28 Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities (the Individual Programs). In 2018, JICA received 721 scholars, and 692 in 2019. JICA will accept 2,000 scholars expected for 2022, marking the fifth year of this program.

Understanding the Japanese Development Experience

Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities



JICA scholars study Japan's experience in their respective fields with Japanese students at the regular classes in the partner universities.



Understanding the Japanese Development Experience



JICA scholars learn about the development of modern and contemporary Japan and the history of international cooperation on development in a series of intensive lectures.



JICA invites future leaders and promoters of the developing countries and fosters them as JICA scholars. JICA scholars will gain a deep understanding of Japan and play a significant role as leaders in their respective fields after their return, fostering a long lasting bilateral relationship between each respective country and Japan.

Friendship with Japan



After returning home, JICA scholars are expected to play roles as bridges between their countries and Japan, to contribute to JICA projects etc..

Development of the Home Country



The knowledge, skills, and problem-solving methods learned in Japan are applied to solve pressing problems in their own countries upon their return. They will further refine these attributes as leaders in the country or wider region.

Voices of the Participants and Lecturers

Exploring Solutions to the Issues in Your Home Country

We have investigated measures for solving issues such as waste disposal and water/sewerage by comparing Japan and the students' home countries. The students' presentations were varied, and the lecturers also gained a lot.



Lecturer in the Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities course



Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities (the Individual Programs). In April 2019, JICA President Kitaoka Shinichi gave a special lecture on Japan's modernization and ODA policies.

Learn about Japan from a Variety of Perspectives

Themes at workshops now cover things like the lack of vacancies at nursery schools in Japan and Japanese "Workaholic" styles. We want them to learn about Japan from a variety of perspectives, and then be of use to their own countries.



Lecturer in the Understanding the Japanese Development Experience course

A Foundation for Developing Public Policy at the Civil Aviation Authority

After returning home, I have been working as an undersecretary at the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation, the organization which regulates the air transport industry in Cambodia. Public sector leadership is about making peoples' lives safer and more prosperous, and this requires a deep, clear understanding of evidence-based policy formulation processes. It is a fundamental process, something that was made clear during my studies in Japan.



Mr. Peouv Polinel, State Secretariat of Civil Aviation

Came to Japan on the SDGs Global Leadership Program.*
*A long-term study program by which administrative officials in Asia, Oceania, Latin America, and Africa study in master's or doctoral courses at a Japanese graduate school with the aim of getting a degree.