

Japan Centers

Business Professional Training in Countries Transitioning to a Market Economy

Centers Established in Eight Countries from 2000

The Japan Centers for Human Resources Development (“Japan Centers”) were established as bases for business personnel training in countries transitioning to a market economy, mainly in the nations in the Indochina region and Central Asia. The first Japan Centers were established in Viet Nam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) and Laos in September 2000, and this network was subsequently expanded with the opening of additional centers in Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Ukraine. Presently there are a total of nine centers in operation in eight countries (Note: The project in Ukraine is scheduled to end in fiscal 2011. However, the Japan Center will continue to be operated by the Ukrainian side).

Cultivating Human Resources to Promote Private Sector Development

Under the Business Programs provided at the Japan Centers, training has been conducted for over 77,000 people to date, making a significant contribution to the cultivation of business professionals. Primarily targeting proprietors of small and medium-sized businesses, managers, as well as entrepreneurs, the program provides practical training covering business management, including Japanese-style management, as well as business skills and factory-floor diagnostics and leadership. This program has earned high acclaim from local companies and business communities. Some countries have witnessed a great deal of activity in recent years, where alumni associations or kaizen associations organized by graduates of Japan Center business courses are working actively and expanding the network of local business professionals.

Frontline of Private Sector Partnerships

Countries in which Japan Centers are set up, such as Viet Nam, are often those in which Japanese corporations are advancing business and a growing number of these corporations are dispatching their local employees to Japan Center’s Business Programs to obtain basic knowledge on Japanese-style business management and practices.

Knowledge of the underlying Japanese language and culture is valuable in understanding Japanese-style management. Japanese language courses have been established in collaboration with the Japan Foundation at many Japan Centers to provide a range of opportunities to learn Japanese, for beginners as well as advanced students. In recent years, Japanese corporations are experiencing growing needs concerning those such as: “the employment of local personnel with Japanese language capabilities” or “short-term training on daily conversation-level Japanese language for local management staff preparing for training in Japan.”

Moreover, taking advantage of the fact that most Japan Centers are located within universities, in recent years Japan Centers are focusing on promoting exchanges with Japanese universities and supporting study abroad programs to Japan. In 2010, “Study-in-Japan Fairs” were held at Japan Centers in six countries, drawing participation from approximately 4,000 persons. There are high expectations that overseas students studying in Japan as a result of these fairs work in Japan or at local Japanese companies in the future.

In this way, JICA will continue to encourage the use of Japan Centers by universities, private companies, NGOs, government institutions, local governments and other organizations as venues for their activities. By doing so, JICA aims to position Japan Centers as platforms for cooperation and exchange between Japan and partner countries.

Case Study Uzbekistan Japan Center for Human Development

The Number of Graduates Tops 800. Alumni Association Holds Job Fair

The Uzbekistan Japan Center for Human Development’s (UJC) flagship course, the Business Course, is a course that teaches management expertise over a five-month period. In the past 10 years the number of graduates has exceeded 800, and many of these graduates are working in executive positions or as managers at companies, serving as a driving force for economic development in Uzbekistan.

The “A-Club”, an alumni association organized by graduates of this course, promotes a variety of activities, one of which is an annual

job fair held in cooperation with the UJC.

In 2010, this job fair was held for the fifth time, attracting the participation of 2,700 job seekers and 57 corporations. While providing employment opportunities for many, the event was a venue of business matching, where companies could exchange information. Furthermore, a recruitment company where one of the graduates worked in provided guidance on attractive resume writing and job interviews, and a forum was held for personnel

management officers to exchange views on human resource management, making the event a very meaningful one.



A-Club members after the opening ceremony