Sharing Japan’s Experiences with Future Leaders of Developing Countries

In October 2018, JICA started in earnest the JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP), designed to foster human resources that support the development of developing countries. JICA-DSP works with universities to offer the opportunity to learn about both Japan’s modernization and development experiences and its wisdom as a development partner after World War II, in addition to regular courses offered by these universities.

JICA-DSP encourages participants from developing countries to contribute to the development of their countries and play significant roles as leaders after returning home. In turn, they will hopefully help to foster a long lasting bilateral relationship between each country and Japan.

Among the training participants staying in Japan under JICA’s various human resource development programs, those enrolled in degree programs at Japanese universities (JICA scholars) are eligible for JICA-DSP, which consists of two components as shown below. JICA scholars are supposed to complete master’s or doctoral courses offered by universities as well as one or both of these components (see the chart below).

(1) Understanding the Japanese Development Experience (Short-term Introductory Course)

This short-term intensive course, jointly offered by JICA and cooperating universities, provides JICA scholars with the opportunity to learn about Japan’s development in the modern era and its history. The course has been offered since fiscal 2017 in collaboration with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. In fiscal 2018, there were 134 JICA scholars who took the course.

JICA also joined hands with the Open University of Japan Foundation to produce a joint TV program titled Seven Chapters on Japan’s Modernization to provide more JICA scholars with the opportunity to gain from this course. The broadcast of this program began in March 2019 on channel BS231, “BS Campus ex” in Japan.

Efforts will also be made to allow all JICA scholars to take this course eventually.

(2) DSPs Offered by Various Universities (Individual Programs)

These programs are established within graduate school degree courses at each university participating in JICA-DSP. They offer a set of class subjects open to JICA scholars studying at such participating universities. The subjects are about modern Japan’s experiences in development, including experiences in Japan’s own development and of its cooperation to other countries through ODA.

These programs are designed for JICA scholars to better understand Japan’s development experiences in their specialized fields through the class subjects of each university. The programs cover a wide range of academic areas, including politics, law, economics, finance, social development, science and technology, and innovation technology.

![Animated exchanges of views with JICA president Shinichi Kitaoka after a lecture in the “Understanding the Japanese Development Experience” course](image_url)