JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for

Peace and Development

# Development Research Network Research Proposal Program

Call for Proposals

# Guidelines for Applicants

November 2026

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## 1. Background and Research Objectives

Japan and Thailand, as longstanding development partners, have worked together to address development challenges while leveraging their respective experiences and strengths. Building on its experience with triangular cooperation with Japan and its own development experience, Thailand is increasing its presence as an emerging development partner by expanding development cooperation—primarily in the ASEAN and Mekong regions—through TICA and NEDA. In recent years, Japan and Thailand have also been promoting intellectual exchange and network-building among policymakers, practitioners and researchers through initiatives such as the JICA Chair and partnerships between graduate schools of development studies.

At the same time, Asian countries—including Japan and Thailand—are called upon to address challenges common to all nations, as well as broad, cross-border issues such as an aging population, regional disparities, climate change, and disaster resilience. To tackle these challenges, it has become more important than ever for countries to share the experiences and insights they have accumulated through their development processes and to learn from one another.

In particular, the development experiences cultivated by Asian countries throughout their respective development processes, as well as the practices of development cooperation by emerging development partners, contain aspects that cannot be fully captured by conventional development theories and aid frameworks alone. It is necessary to learn from these experiences, generate insights that contribute to policy and practice, and accumulate and disseminate them as part of a new discourse on development cooperation based on Asia's development experiences.

Based on the above, this research proposal project will be implemented with the aim of promoting ongoing intellectual dialogue and joint research among Japanese and Thai researchers and practitioners; generating insights that contribute to policy formulation and academic research; and fostering the formation of future networks within the ASEAN region, as well as discussions on new norms and forms of development cooperation based on Asia's development experiences.

## 2. Overview of The Project

This project aims to foster **a sustainable research network among researchers in Japan, Thailand, and the ASEAN regions** who are engaged in development studies. Through this network, the project seeks to:

- generate research to provide insights for development policy formulation and development practice in Japan, Thailand, and the ASEAN
- promote internationally applicable development knowledge rooted in Asian experiences

- Strengthening the research capabilities, international outreach, and research networks of young researchers interested in development studies.

In light of the above objectives, selected research proposals will be supported through opportunities for research development, international collaboration, peer review, and dissemination in English.

Specifically, the program will:

- Provide opportunities to present research plans and receive advice from experts in Japan and Thailand.
- Support publication through JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development (hereinafter referred to as “JICA RI”)'s peer review and screening processes.
- Support presentations at international conferences and submissions to international peer-reviewed journals.

## 3. Focal Themes

Please select one of the following as your primary theme. Proposals spanning multiple themes are also eligible.

**1. Research on Medium- to Long-Term Challenges Shared by Both Thailand and Japan**

*(Themes that offer opportunities for mutual learning)*

**Purpose:**

To invite research that draws on the experiences and lessons of both Japan and Thailand in addressing shared social challenges, with a view to generating mutual learning opportunities and policy-relevant insights.

**Examples:**

- Integrated community care systems (responses to population ageing)
- Sustainable urban policies (regional disparities, regional revitalization, community development)
- Disaster resilience
- Other related topics

**2. Research on Shared and Transboundary Challenges in ASEAN and the Greater Mekong Subregion**

**Purpose:**

To invite research that addresses cross-border and regional challenges, explores approaches to regional cooperation, and generates knowledge on the potential roles of Japan and Thailand in contributing to the sustainable development of ASEAN and the

Greater Mekong Subregion.

**Examples:**

- Industrial upgrading and inclusive growth to overcome the middle-income trap
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management
- Food security
- Regional connectivity
- Migration and human mobility
- Other related topics

**3. Research Contributing to the Conceptualization and Theorization of Development Knowledge Derived from Asian Experiences**

**Purpose:**

To encourage research that goes beyond treating Asia's development experience as a collection of case studies and instead seeks to systematize and theorize such experiences as globally relevant development knowledge, thereby contributing to future approaches to development cooperation and capacity strengthening.

**Examples**

- Theoretical lessons from Thailand's SEP（Sufficiency Economy Philosophy）for sustainable development.
- Lessons from the Asian Financial Crisis for resilient economic policies.
- Conceptualizing resilience through Asian experiences in disaster recovery

**4. Research on Development Cooperation Systems, Institutions, and Capacity Development**

**Purpose:**

To invite research on the institutions, systems, and capacities required to effectively design and implement development cooperation. Particular attention may be given to the evolving roles of emerging development partners, and mechanisms for international collaboration among development partners.

**Examples**

- Capacity development and strengthening for emerging development partners
- Opportunities for inter-agency and international collaboration

**5. Research on Practices and Challenges of Human Security**

**Purpose:**

To invite research that examines policies, institutions, and regional cooperation mechanisms necessary for advancing human security in response to increasingly

complex development challenges. Based on JICA's human security framework (see the reference below), we particularly welcome studies that explore how the principles of human security can be translated into practical knowledge for development cooperation and provide policy and operational implications, especially from the perspectives of preventive development, inclusiveness, and resilience.

Reference: Human Security - JICA Ogata Research Institute

**Keywords:**

- Preventive development
- Inclusiveness
- Resilience

## 4. Expected Outcomes from Selected Researchers

### (1) Required Outcomes for Selected Researchers

- Publication of at least one paper in a JICA RI publication (a research paper or discussion paper). The paper will be published following the prescribed peer review, evaluation, and editorial procedures. The author's honorarium will be paid based on this published paper.
- Presentation of the research plan and research findings at a research conference, study group, or results presentation meeting designated by the JICA RI.

### (2) Progressive Outcomes Expected of Awardees

- Submission to a peer-reviewed international academic journal equivalent to Tier 1 or Tier 2: Since the definition of "Tier" varies by field, the candidate and the JICA RI will, in principle, consult and decide on potential journals for submission based on internationally recognized journal rankings, field-specific classifications, or equivalent objective criteria.
- Presentations at international conferences, etc.: It is expected that grantees will deliver oral presentations, poster presentations, or panel reports at international conferences, regional conferences, or international workshops related to their research field, and use feedback from domestic and international experts to refine their papers. Eligibility for participation and the allocation of expenses will be discussed separately.

## 5. Eligibility

- Applicants must have obtained their Ph.D. within the past 15 years as of the application deadline. If the applicant has not yet obtained a Ph.D., they must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program or be continuing research activities after completing the

program.

- Applicants must be affiliated with a university, research institution, think tank, public entities, or other equivalent organization and be capable of conducting research. There are no restrictions on nationality.
- Applicants must have the willingness to actively engage in the Japan-Thailand Development Research Network, including continued participation in research network, knowledge sharing, and collaborative activities.

## 6. Support from JICA

Selected researchers will receive financial and research support to complete their research findings and disseminate them both domestically and internationally.

### (1) Financial Support

**Honorarium for publications**

- An honorarium of **JPY 350,000 per paper** will be paid for paper accepted for publication in JICA RI publications.
  * In the case of co-authored papers, the honorarium will be provided on a per-paper basis.
  ** The payment schedule, acceptance requirements, allocation among co-authors, and tax treatment will be determined in accordance with the conditions specified after selection.

**Academic publication support**

- Actual cost of English proofreading in accordance with JICA's regulations
- Open-access publication fees for peer-reviewed international academic journals.

**Others**

- If participation in a research conference organized by JICA requires international or domestic travel, travel expenses, daily allowance, and accommodation expenses in accordance with JICA's regulations.

### (2) Academic Support

To support research implementation, knowledge exchange, and networking, JICA will provide the following assistance, to the extent possible:

- Coordination with relevant JICA departments for researchers wishing to visit JICA-related projects and their sites;
- Facilitating connections with researchers and development practitioners, primarily in Japan and Thailand within our networks; and
- Mentoring support from the JICA RI, including advice and feedback on research design, methodology, analyzing, and dissemination of research findings.

## 7. Number of Proposals to Be Selected

Approximately 4 proposals

* However, depending on the results of the screening and circumstances surrounding project implementation, the number of selected projects may be changed, or no projects may be selected.

## 8. Evaluation Criteria and Screening Method

### （1） Base Score (100 points)

| Evaluation Criteria | Points | Evaluation Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Methodological Validity | 20 | Are the research question, theoretical framework, data, subject matter, and analytical methods consistent, and is the study designed to draw sound conclusions? For comparative studies, verify the units of comparison and comparability; for empirical studies, verify the availability of data. |
| Originality | 20 | Does the study present new research questions, materials, data, comparisons, methods, or interpretations compared to existing research? Evaluate whether the study goes beyond a simple replication of prior research or a repetition of known claims. |
| Feasibility | 20 | Are the research structure, division of roles, access to data, processes, and deliverables feasible within the timeframe extending through March 2028? Research risks and alternative measures will also be reviewed. |
| Alignment with the Target Theme | 10 | To what extent does the proposed research address the focal themes (p. XX) and objectives of the call for proposals? |
| Relevance to Development Cooperation Policy and Practice | 10 | This criterion evaluates the extent to which the research findings provide insights for resolving development challenges and informing development cooperation policies and implementation. Emphasis is placed not only on the short-term applicability to specific projects but also, from a medium- to long-term perspective, on the potential to deepen understanding of development challenges and contribute to future project and policy formulation. |
| Contribution to the Dissemination of Asian Development Knowledge | 10 | Does the research go beyond merely presenting case studies of Asia's development experiences to offer concepts, theories, comparable insights, or practical lessons applicable to other regions? The potential for connecting to international discourse is |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | evaluated. |
| Research Ethics and Risk Management | 10 | Have specific considerations been made regarding informed consent, personal information, participants in vulnerable situations, safety management, data management, and research independence? Evaluate whether the necessary ethical reviews and their timelines are clearly defined. |

### （2）Additional Evaluation Points (Maximum 10 points)

| Bonus Criteria | Points | Eligibility Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Collaborative research involving two or more countries | 5 | When institutions or researchers located in two or more different countries substantially participate in research design, data collection, analysis, and writing and the division of roles is clearly specified. Nominal co-authorship is not eligible. |
| Contribution to Gender Equality | 5 | Points will be awarded if the research topic, analytical framework, or application of results specifically contributes to gender equality, or if the research team's composition and decision-making processes demonstrate substantive commitment to gender equality. |

*The maximum total score is 110 points. Bonus points are not a substitute for the base score; they are used to compare proposals that have already been confirmed to be of sufficient quality based on the base score.

## 9. Research Ethics

- Applicants and co-researchers must comply with the Code of Conduct for Researchers at the JICA Ogata Research Institute and applicable research ethics regulations, and conduct research responsibly and with integrity.
- Research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, duplicate submission, and inappropriate authorship, is prohibited. Research involving human subjects must ensure informed consent, appropriate protection of personal and sensitive information, and special consideration for vulnerable participants.
- For research requiring ethical review, applicants should obtain approval from their institution or another appropriate ethics committee before application. If approval is pending, the ethics review application must already have been submitted, and the reviewing body and expected approval date must be indicated in the application.
- Research involving human subjects must also receive approval from the JICA RI

Research Ethics Committee before the research begins.

- Any serious ethical concerns or suspected misconduct must be reported immediately to JICA RI. Confirmed violations may result in withdrawal of the grant, suspension of funding, or correction or retraction of research outputs.

  Reference: Research Ethics and Compliance - JICA Ogata Research Institute
- Applicants receiving or expecting to receive other grants or funding for the same or substantially overlapping research must disclose such funding in the application. Inappropriate duplication of funding or expenses is not allowed.
- The use of AI tools is permitted. However, applicants are fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of all application materials and research outputs. In addition, applicants must briefly disclose in the application form how AI tools, if any, were used in the development of the research proposal and application materials. As part of the selection process, JICA RI may use appropriate software to screen submitted research proposals for the potential use of AI.

## 10. Schedule

| Timeline | Details |
|---|---|
| Early November 2026 | Call for applications opens on the JICA website; applicants are encouraged to apply |
| Friday, February 5, 2027 | Application Deadline |
| Early April 2027 | Notification of Selection Results |
| April–May 2027 | Confirmation of Terms and Start of Research<br>*Fellows will be asked to present their research plans at a research conference or workshop organized by the JICA RI, scheduled to be held around the same time. |
| Early November 2027 | Submission of the first draft of the paper to the JICA RI |
| November 2027–February 2028 | Peer review, revision, and preparation for publication |
| March 2028 and beyond | Scheduled for publication |

*The schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced on the JICA RI's website.

## 11. Application Documents

- Application Form (Principal researcher, Co-researchers, Affiliation, Contact Information, Research Topic)

- Research Proposal (prescribed format; generally 5 to 10 pages)
- CVs of the Principal researcher, and Co-researchers (up to 3 pages each) and a list of major achievements

* Documents must be prepared in English. Certificates and other supporting documents may be submitted in Japanese or Thai; however, summaries or additional explanations may be requested as necessary.

## 12. How to Submit

- Applicants must submit the required documents by email to the Research Program Division of the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development at **dritrp@jica.go.jp.**
- The following documents must be submitted:
  Application Form
  Research Proposal
  CVs of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s)
- All documents must be prepared in English and submitted in PDF format. Each file must be named using the following format: Document Name_First Name_Last Name.
  Examples:
  Application Form_Taro_Ogata.pdf
  Research Proposal_Taro_Ogata.pdf
  CV_Taro_Ogata.pdf
- Files with garbled characters, password protection, or those that are corrupted or unreadable may not be accepted; therefore, be sure to verify the contents before submission.
- The deadline is 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2027 (Japan Standard Time). The submission time will be determined by the time the application email is received by JICA RI. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications well in advance of the deadline.
- Resubmissions are permitted as long as they are made before the deadline; as a general rule, the last complete application received will be treated as the official submission.
- The information submitted will be used for the evaluation of this program, communication with applicants, and management following selection.

## 13. Contact Information

JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development
[Name of Responsible Department] Research Program Division
[Email] dritrp@jica.go.jp

*The application period and estimated response dates will be listed on the call for proposals page. We will not respond to individual inquiries regarding the details of the review process, the status of other applicants, or the reasons for acceptance or rejection.