



Japan-Mexico Training Program for the Strategic Global Partnership

General information on Modern Design and Traditional Craftsmanship

(日本のデザインと伝統技術)

JFY 2024

Course No.: 202312572-J005

Course Period in Japan: From March 25th to November 1st, 2025

This information pertains to one of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Group & Region Focus) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both Governments.

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released the Development Cooperation Charter in February 2015, which stated, *“In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together.”* JICA believes that this ‘Knowledge Co-Creation Program’ will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

I. Concept

Background

In 1971, the Japan-Mexico Exchange Program has started, which mutually accepts students and young engineers from Mexico and Japan; in February 2010, based on the “Japan-Mexico Joint Statement Strategic Global Partnership in the 21st Century¹”, the Exchange Program was renewed into the Japan-Mexico Training Program for the Strategic Global Partnership. This program contains long-term courses (between three months and twelve months period) and short-term courses (less than three months’ period). Currently, JICA accepts 50 Mexicans participants annually under this scheme.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this training program in 2021 with a value added of “Co-creation between Mexico and Japan”, the course line-up has been completely reviewed, taking into account the compatibility with the priority fields of PRONACES (National Strategy Program) set by the National Council of Humanities, Sciences and Technologies (CONAHCYT) in Mexico, to response strong needs in the areas such as, food security, and also traditional areas such as art and quality control are set.

This training program aims to develop Mexican human resources, through the implementation of training program based on the Japan-Mexico Joint Statement, thereby contributing to reinforcement of the Mexico-Japan Strategic Global Partnership.

For what?

The purpose of this course is to train industrial and graphic designers in order to improve technical skill of industrial and graphic design in Mexico. In addition, it aims to enhance capacity to understand a concept behind the culture and learn an aesthetic sense in Japan.

For whom?

Applicants must have an adequate knowledge of design theory and presentation techniques such as sketching, modeling and rendering.

How?

The contents and topics of the training will be decided through discussion between participants and the professor, for concept making, designing, sketching and modeling with different kinds of materials.

¹ https://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2011/2/PDF/0222_02_01.pdf

II. Description

1. Title (Course No.)

Modern Design and Traditional Craftsmanship (202312572-J005)

2. Course Duration in Japan

March to November 2025

March 25th: Arrival in Japan

March 26th to May 6th: Briefing, General Orientation, and Intensive Japanese Language Class (at JICA Chubu Center)

May 7th Moving to JICA Kansai

May 8th to October 31st: Technical Training Program (at Kyoto Institute of Technology)

November 1st: Departure from Japan

3. Target Regions or Countries

Mexico

4. Eligible / Target Organization

- (1) Applicants must have an adequate basic knowledge of design theory and presentation techniques such as sketching, modeling, and rendering.
- (2) As a rule, applicants must be teachers in the area of design at present or be expected to be employed as leaders for the development of the industry.
- (3) Applicants must have an adequate ability in English conversation to be able to perform satisfactorily in the course.

5. Capacity (Upper Limit of Participants)

Four (4) participants

6. Language

English

7. Objective(s)

The purpose of this course is to improve the technical skills of industrial and graphic design in Mexico by training industrial and graphic designers. In addition, it also aims to enhance capacity to understand a concept behind the culture and learn an aesthetic sense in Japan. This course will focus on applied techniques for different types of design process in design.

8. Overall Goal

In order to contribute to the PRONACES, special attention was paid to selecting the contents selection of the course. In this particular case, due to the great variety of topics that could be developed, the expected results will be in the same way. For instance, the PRONACES' "Culture" strategy have been identified, which could be linked to this course, in terms of promoting the recognition of the memories, knowledge, technologies, expressions and practices, generated from the cultural and bio-cultural wealth that defines Mexico as a country, as well as the strategy of "Socio-Ecological Systems,"

which seeds to the recovery of social ties, strengthen the rural economy with a view of sustainability and extend the life expectancies of young people and adults in the less favored regions of the country.

The course is expected to guide participants to develop ventures that impact on the local traditional economy, and ensure its continuity, or to take advantage of the economic development that megaprojects will bring.

9. Output and Contents

This course consists of the following components. Details on each component are given below.

(1) General Orientation and Japanese language Program

The general orientation and Japanese language program are organized at the JICA Chubu Centre, prior to the technical training, in order to assist the participants in understanding Japanese way of thinking and adjusting themselves to life in Japan, and thus to facilitate effective training.

(2) Industrial and Graphic Design

Expected Output	Subjects/Agendas
Planning	Practice of concept making
Design Developing	Practice of designing
Rendering	Practice of sketching
	Practice of drafting
Modeling	Making models with different kinds of materials
Field work	Visiting the artisan and master craftsman in Kyoto to learn Japanese culture and traditional craft
Summary	Presentation

<Structure of the Course>

Topic outline (subject to minor changes)

Month1: Understanding, visiting, experiencing, and researching Japanese culture
Month 2: Tour of Japanese traditional craft workshop, understanding of techniques Visiting temples and shrines, experiencing culture
Month 3: Research and understanding of modern product design Market research
Month 4: Inventing and planning original designs Survey of local cities
Month 5: Technique experiment, production
Month 6: Holding exhibitions, creating catalogs, presentations

III. Eligibility and Procedures

1. Expectations to the Applicants

Applicants must attach Annex about the followings with photos of the works or sketches to demonstrate the ability to accomplish the courses of product design.

- i) Educational background related to product design (what you learned at school)
- ii) Work experience related to product design (if you are working on any specific product design project, please describe and explain what kind of skill you want to acquire through this course).

2. Nominee Qualifications

Applying organizations are expected to select nominees who meet the following qualifications.

(1) Essential Qualifications

- 1) Current Duties: be an employee of an industrial design company or any other job related to industrial design, willing to acquire comprehensive knowledge about Japanese design and traditional technology.
- 2) Experience in the Relevant Field: have more than two (2) years' experience in the field of industrial design.
- 3) Educational Background: be a graduate of university or equivalent.
- 4) Applicants must be fully committed to the training.
- 5) Language Proficiency: have a competent command of spoken and written English which is equal to TOEFL iBT 100 or more (This program includes active participation in discussions, which requires high competence of English ability. Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC, etc., if possible.)
- 6) Health: must be in good health to participate in the program. To reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest to declare in the Medical History. ※1 (QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS RESTRICTION of the application form) if you have been a patient of following illnesses; Hypertension / Diabetes / Cardiovascular illness / Heart failure / Chronic respiratory illness.

※1: Considering the length of the course exceeds seven months and that during this period JICA could not offer proper health care assistance for periodical exams, medical appointments or eventual emergency care (if needed) required during gestation, pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply due to the potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus. Also, for the same reason, in case of the expected date of birth is during the course period, JICA could not accept the applicant, even if already selected.

(2) Recommended Qualifications

- 1) Age: between the ages of twenty-five (25) and forty (40) years
- 2) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Women are encouraged to apply for the program. JICA makes a commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, providing equal opportunity for all applicants regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

3. Required Documents for Application

(1) Application Form: The Application Form is available at **the JICA Mexico office**

* If you have any difficulties/disabilities which require assistance, please specify necessary assistances in the QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS RESTRICTION (1-©) of the application form. Information will be reviewed and used for reasonable accommodation.

(2) Photocopy of Passport: You should submit it with the application form if you possess your passport which you will carry when entering Japan for this program. If not, you are requested to submit its photocopy as soon as you obtain it.

*The following information should be included in the photocopy:

Name, Date of Birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport Number and Expiry Date

(3) English Score Sheet: to be submitted with the application form, if the nominees have any official English examination scores. (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS)

(4) Questionnaire: to be submitted with the application form. Fill in Annex of this General Information.

4. Procedures for Application and Selection

(1) Selection

Primary screening is conducted at the CONAHCYT after receiving official documents from you. JICA Kansai Center will consult with concerned organizations in Japan in the process of final selection. Applying organizations with the best intentions to utilize the opportunity will be highly valued.

The Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.

(2) Notice of Acceptance

CONAHCYT will notify the results **not later than 8 th December, 2024.**

5. Additional Document(s) to Be Submitted by Accepted Candidates

Inception Report-- -- to be submitted by January 2025

Accepted candidates are required to prepare an Inception Report (Please read Annex "Inception Report" for detailed information.) before their departure. The Inception Report should be sent to JICA by January 2025, preferably by e-mail to Matsuno.Junko@jica.go.jp

6. Conditions for Participation

The participants of KCCP are required

- (1)** to strictly observe the course schedule,
- (2)** not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants themselves,
- (3)** to understand that leaving Japan during the course period (to return to home country, etc.) is not allowed,
- (4)** not to bring any family members to stay with (Visit by the participant's family is not prohibited as long as the participation to the training program is not disturbed.),
- (5)** to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,
- (6)** to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments,
- (7)** not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (8)** to discontinue the program, should the participants violate the Japanese laws or JICA's regulations, or the participants commit illegal or immoral conduct, or get critical illness or serious injury and be considered unable to continue the course. The participants shall be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care stipulated in (3) of "5. Expenses", "IV. Administrative Arrangements",
- (9)** to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for the KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (10)** not to drive a car or motorbike, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (11)** to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (12)** to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule, and

(13) In case of natural disaster or any possible contingency that makes unfeasible to conduct this course in Japan, it could be offered remotely (on-line) or canceled . In the case of conducting training program on-line, the training period may be subject to change.

IV. Administrative Arrangements

1. Organizer (JICA Center in Japan)

(1) **Center:** JICA Kansai

(2) **Program Officer:** Ms. Junko Matsuno (Matsuno.Junko@jica.go.jp)

2. Implementing Partner

(1) **Name:** Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT)

(2) **URL:** <https://www.kit.ac.jp/en/>

3. Travel to Japan

(1) **Air Ticket:** In principle, JICA will arrange an economy-class round-trip ticket between an international airport designated by JICA and Japan.

(2) **Travel Insurance:** Coverage is from time of arrival up to departure in Japan. Thus, traveling time outside Japan (include damaged baggage during the arrival flight to Japan) will not be covered.

4. Accommodation in Japan

Basically, JICA will arrange monthly apartment for the participants in Japan.

5. Expenses

The following expenses in Japan will be provided by JICA

(1) Allowances for meals, living expenses, outfits, and shipping and stopover.

(2) Expenses for study tours (basically in the form of train tickets).

(3) Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are not included).

(4) Expenses for program implementation, including materials.

(5) For more details, please see “III. ALLOWANCES” of the brochure for participants titled “KENSU-IN GUIDEBOOK,” which will be given before departure for Japan.

*Link to JICA HP (English/French/Spanish/Russian):

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/tech/acceptance/training/index.html

6. Pre-departure Orientation*

A pre-departure orientation will be held at respective JICA Mexico office to provide Participants with details on travel to Japan, conditions of the course, and other matters.

*YouTube of “Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan” and “Introduction of JICA Center” are viewable from the link below.

Image videos of 'Introduction of JICA Center (YouTube)' show the following

information of JICA Centers: Location, Building, Entrance, Reception (Front desk), Lobby, Office, Accommodation (Room), Amenities(Hand dryer), Bathroom(Shower and Toilet), Toiletries, Restaurant, Laundry Room(Washing machine, Iron), ICT Room(Computer for participants), Clinic, Cash dispenser, Gym, Neighborhood

Part I: Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan	
English ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLurfKugrEw
Spanish ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7l-WIQSDjI
Part II: Introduction of JICA Centers in Japan	
JICA Kansai	https://www.jica.go.jp/kansai/english/office/index.html
JICA Chugoku	https://www.jica.go.jp/chugoku/english/office/index.html

V. Annex

Annex
Japan-Mexico Training Program for the Strategic Global Partnership
JFY 2024-2025

Modern Design and Traditional Craftsmanship

Full Name	
Where to contact	Tel. Fax. Email.
TOEFL Score	
Educational background related to industrial design *Describe what you learned/are learning at school.	
Work experience related to industrial design	

Applicants must attach photos of the works or sketches to demonstrate the ability to accomplish the courses of product design.

For Your Reference

JICA and Capacity Development

Technical cooperation is people-to-people cooperation that supports partner countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacities to address development challenges by their own efforts. Instead of applying Japanese technology per se to partner countries, JICA's technical cooperation provides solutions that best fit their needs by working with people living there. In the process, consideration is given to factors such as their regional characteristics, historical background, and languages. JICA does not limit its technical cooperation to human resources development; it offers multi-tiered assistance that also involves organizational strengthening, policy formulation, and institution building.

Implementation methods of JICA's technical cooperation can be divided into two approaches. One is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts and volunteers in various development sectors to partner countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The latter method is the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, formerly called Training Program, and it is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from partner countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) has long occupied an important place in JICA operations. About 400 pre-organized courses cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection. A variety of programs is being customized by the different target organizations to address the specific needs, such as policy-making organizations, service provision organizations, as well as research and academic institutions. Some programs are organized to target a certain group of countries with similar developmental challenges.

Japanese Development Experience

Japan, as the first non-Western nation to become a developed country, built itself into a country that is free, peaceful, prosperous and democratic while preserving its tradition. Japan will serve as one of the best examples for our partner countries to follow in their own development.

From engineering technology to production management methods, most of the know-how that has enabled Japan to become what it is today has emanated from a process of adoption and adaptation, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories.

Through Japan's progressive adaptation and application of systems, methods and technologies from the West in a way that is suited to its own circumstances, Japan has

developed a storehouse of knowledge not found elsewhere from unique systems of organization, administration and personnel management to such social systems as the livelihood improvement approach and governmental organization. It is not easy to apply such experiences to other countries where the circumstances differ, but the experiences can provide ideas and clues useful when devising measures to solve problems.

JICA, therefore, would like to invite as many leaders of partner countries as possible to come and visit us, to mingle with the Japanese people, and witness the advantages as well as the disadvantages of Japanese systems, so that integration of their findings might help them reach their developmental objectives.



Contact Information for Inquiries

For inquiries and further information, please contact the JICA Mexico office.

Further, address correspondence to:

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