

La Oficina de Becas Internacionales de la Dirección General de Cooperación Internacional, pone en su conocimiento que en el marco del Programa de Capacitación y Diálogo, la Agencia de Cooperación Técnica de Japón (JICA) ofrece el “PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM OF SEEDS TO FACILITATE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH QUALITY SEEDS” a realizarse del 11 junio al 24 de septiembre de 2017, en la ciudad de Tsukuba, Japón.

Los interesados deberán presentar para su postulación en esta DGCIN antes del 3 de agosto próximo: CV, analítico, certificado médico, además del formulario.



# Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus)

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON

**Plant Variety Protection and Quality Control System  
of Seeds to Facilitate Distribution of High Quality Seeds**  
課題別研修「高品質種子の供給のための  
植物品種保護制度及び種子の品質管理制度」

**JFY 2017**

**NO. J17-04027 / ID. 1784683**

**Course Period in Japan: From June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to September 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Course Period in Vietnam:**

**From September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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

### 'JICA Knowledge Co-Creation (KCC) Program' as a New Start

In the Development Cooperation Charter which is released from the Japanese Cabinet on February 2015, it is clearly pointed out that *"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."* We believe that this 'Knowledge Co-Creation Program' will serve as a center of mutual learning process.

# **I. Concept**

## **Background**

Accelerated adoption and use of improved plant varieties, and effective quality control of such varieties are essential to facilitate distribution of high quality seeds, which is key to enhanced agricultural productivity in developing countries.

Plant Variety Protection (PVP) is a measure for promoting plant breeding by providing breeders with a legal framework for protecting their intellectual properties. It benefits both breeders and farmers of each country by contributing to the improvement of agricultural productivity and the quality of agricultural products.

World population continues to grow and it is necessary to find ways of increasing output through higher yields and less wastage, thereby minimizing the use of land and other resources, all of which are becoming scarcer nowadays. Tremendous progress in agricultural productivity in various parts of the world is largely based on improved varieties resulting from modern technologies of plant production combined with high-performing varieties with the objective of full production potential.

But plant breeding has wider economic and environmental benefits than just increasing food production, including for developing countries. The development of new improved varieties with, for example, higher quality increases the value and marketability of crops in the global market of the twenty-first century. In addition, breeding programs for certain plants can be of substantial economic importance for an exporting country.

The process of plant breeding is long and expensive; however, it can be very quick and easy to reproduce a variety. This means substantial economic investments are required from breeders and the most effective way of sustaining breeding efforts is to reward such investment. It is, therefore, important to provide an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

Equally important as effective PVP system is to maintain the quality of seeds and seedlings throughout the distribution chain. Quality control through seed health test based on internationally agreed rules for seed sampling and testing facilitates seed trading nationally and internationally, and also contributes to food security.

## **For what?**

This program aims to provide the participants with practical skills for implementing the PVP system and quality control of seeds and seedlings through seed testing and certification, in conformity with internationally agreed principles, in order to contribute to accelerated development in agriculture.

## **For whom?**

This program is offered to the national, local governmental and any public officers engaged in the field of PVP and/or seed testing or seed certification. These include examiners for PVP system, technicians in charge of DUS growing tests, and/or seed quality evaluation (germination, purity, moisture, seed health etc.).

Those who engage in the formulation of relevant legal framework are not eliminated, but applicants who directly engage in technical works are highly expected. Major part of this training course involves technical issues and practices. It should be noted that the training module does not include subjects on plant quarantine system, i.e., border control of pest and disease.

## **How?**

During the training course in Japan, participants will have opportunities to learn technical methodologies through lectures, practices, and site visits to public and private sectors. Participants are expected to formulate action plans that describe how they will conduct their work based on their leanings in Japan and disseminate their knowledge acquired to their colleagues.

## **II. Description**

### **1. Title (J-No.): Plant Variety Protection and Quality Control System of Seeds to Facilitate Distribution of High Quality Seeds (J17-04027)**

### **2. Course Period**

Duration of whole program:	May	to September	2017
Preliminary Phase:	May	to June	2017
Core Phase in Japan:	June 11	to September 17,	2017
Third Country Phase in Vietnam:	September 18 to September 24, 2017		

### **3. Target Regions or Countries**

Argentina, Cambodia, Kyrgyz, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Myanmar, Moldova, Laos, Timor-Leste

### **4. Eligible / Target Organization**

This program is designed for technical officials of national or local government or relevant organization in charge of practical work on new plant variety protection and/or seed testing or seed certification.

### **5. Course Capacity (Upper limit of Participants) 11 participants**

### **6. Language to be used in this program: English**

### **7. Course Objective:**

Participants acquire practical skills to implement public system of seed quality test, and new plant variety protection (PVP) system, in conformity with international standards.

### **8. Overall goal**

By establishment of quality control of quality seeds and seedlings, enhanced agricultural productivity in participants' home country can be expected through accelerated adoption and use of new plant varieties developed based on PVP systems.

### **9. Expected module outputs and contents:**

(1) Under the course objective, participants are expected to achieve the following outputs:

- 1) Participant understands and can explain key issues in quality control of production and distribution of seeds and seedlings in their home country.
- 2) Participant can explain the outline and the importance of internationally certified seed tests, and acquire technical skill to conduct seed quality testing.
- 3) Participant understands the importance of PVP, and its potential impact on agricultural production through breeding to improve local varieties.
- 4) Participant acquires technical skill to conduct DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability) growing test which is an indispensable process related to examination in PVP system.
- 5) Participant understands the situation to improve PVP system in conformity with international system and seed quality control system in Asia.

(2) Prior to arrival in Japan, participants are required to prepare Inception Report, which discusses about the improvement of PVP implementation and need for improved quality

control of seeds and seedlings distributed in their countries, and submit it to JICA Tsukuba (See III.3(2)).

For the preparation of Inception Report, participants are requested to consult their senior colleague of their organizations and/or relevant authorities in their own countries. Action plan, one of the expected program outputs, should also be approved by these supervisors after the participants return to their countries.

This program consists of the following components:

<b>(1) Preliminary Phase in participants' home countries</b> (Prior to arrival in Japan on June 11, 2017) <i>Participating organizations make required preparation for the program in the respective countries.</i>	
Expected Module Outputs	Activities
Inception Report is formulated	Following the instruction in ANNEX, Participants should prepare the Inception Report. It should be submitted to JICA Tsukuba <b>no later than May 29, 2017.</b>

<b>(2) Core Phase in Japan</b> (From June 11 to September 17, 2017) <i>Participants attend the program in Japan.</i>		
Expected Module Outputs	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
1) Participant understands and can explain key issues in Quality Control of production and distribution of seeds and seedlings in their home country.	*Report on problems regarding PVP systems and Quality Control of seeds and seedlings in participants' home country, type of crop/ agri-business with international competitiveness or potential to strengthen it etc.	<Development of inception report, PCM, visit private and public sectors on seeds and seedlings>
2) Participant can explain the outline and the importance of internationally certified seed tests, and acquire technical skill to conduct seed quality testing.	* Lecture and site visit at the Center for Seeds and Seedlings NARO (NCSS) * Practice at NCSS Headquarters and Nishinohon Station * Visit to seed company which exports seeds with seed quality certificates issued at NCSS.	<Lectures and visits seed testing laboratories>
3) Participant understands the importance of PVP, and its potential impact on agricultural production through breeding to improve local varieties.	* Lecture on examination at PVP Office in MAFF. * Lecture by Office of UPOV * UPOV distance learning course, etc.	<Lectures and visits, related to plant variety protection, distance learning by UPOV>

4) Participant acquires technical skill to conduct DUS growing test which is an indispensable process related to examination in PVP system.	Practice on DUS growing test (test guidelines, planning DUS test, field management, assessment & measurement, photo-taking, PVP database etc) at NCSS Headquarter and Nishinohon or other Stations.	<Practice on DUS growing tests>
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**(3) Third Country Phase in Vietnam**  
 (From September 18 to September 24, 2017)  
*Participants attend the third country training in Vietnam after the training in Japan.*

Expected Module Outputs	Subjects/Agendas	
5) Participant understands the situation to improve PVP system in conformity with international system and seed quality control system in Asia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* History to develop PVP system in Vietnam and joining UPOV and its importance after becoming a member of UPOV.</li> <li>* The situation to improve PVP system by JICA project.</li> <li>* QC system of seeds and seedlings in Asia.</li> </ul>	<Lecture Discussion Visit to Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)>

**(4) Finalization Phase in participants' home countries**  
*Participating organizations are expected to produce final outputs by making use of training results brought back by participants. This phase marks the end of the program.*

Expected Module outputs	Activities
To implement an Action Plan	Application and implementation of the Action Plan back in the participant's country.

## <Structure of the program>

Topic outline (subject to minor changes)

**1st and 2nd week:** Introduction, Inception Report, Overview of the agricultural situation and Works of UPOV, MAFF

- (1) Program orientation
- (2) Benchmark test
- (3) Preparation for presentation of the Inception Report
- (4) Presentation of the Inception report
- (5) Lectures/Exercises by UPOV official(s).

**2-4, 8-10, and 12th week:** Lectures of agricultural situation in Japan and overview of the works of MAFF and NCSS, lectures and practices on DUS growing tests

- (1) Overview of agriculture in Japan and its policy on the intellectual property rights
- (2) Overview of PVP system in Japan and its present situation
- (3) Overview of technical work at National Center for Seeds and Seedlings (NCSS)
- (4) Lectures and practices on DUS growing tests
- (5) Outline of technical works and field preparation of test plots in Nishinohon station
- (6) Visit plant breeder site

**4-5th and 12th week:** Practice on quality seed and seedling production

- (1) Rice seed propagation system in Japan
- (2) Production and distribution of foundation seed of potato
- (3) Practice on breeding, seed propagation and cultivation techniques (potato, wheat, legume etc)

**5-6th, 9th and 11th week:** Practice on seed testing

- (1) Practice on seed testing and certification and international rules of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), including seed health

**7th:** Introduction of Project Cycle Management (PCM) method

- (1) Practice and lectures of PCM

**13th:** Practice on actual work and business of a seed company

- (1) On the job training in a private seed company

**14th week:** Presentation of Action Plan, evaluation meeting and closing ceremony

- (1) Preparation of Action Plan
- (2) Presentation of Action Plan
- (3) Evaluation test
- (4) Evaluation meeting
- (5) Closing ceremony including awarding of certificate

**15th week:** Third country program in Vietnam

- (1) History to develop PVP system in Vietnam  
(Including joining UPOV and its importance after becoming a member of UPOV)
- (2) Situation to improve PVP system
- (3) QC system of seeds and seedlings in Vietnam

※ Schedule and program are subject to change.

### **III. Conditions and Procedures for Application**

#### **1. Expectations from Participating Organizations:**

- (1) This program is designed primarily for organizations that intend to address specific issues or problems identified in their operation. Participating organizations are expected to utilize this program for those specific organizational purposes.
- (2) This program is enriched with contents and facilitation schemes specially developed in collaboration with relevant prominent organizations in Japan. These special features enable the program to meet specific requirements of applying organizations and effectively facilitate them toward solutions for the issues and problems.

#### **2. Nominee Qualifications:**

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

##### **(1) Essential Qualifications**

- 1) Current Duties: Officials of national or local government or relevant organization in charge of technical work on **plant variety protection** and/or **seed testing or seed certification**. (Notice: Breeding, conservation and use of plant genetic resources are not included.)
- 2) Experience in the relevant fields: have more than three(3) years' experience.
- 3) Educational background: be a university graduate, ideally with the background of agriculture-related subjects.
- 4) Language: sufficient command of spoken and written English (which is equivalent to TOEFL iBT 85 or above is desirable). This training course includes active participation in discussions, which requires high proficiency of English. (Please attach an official certificate for English ability, if possible)
- 5) Health: must be in good health, both physically and mentally, to participate in the Program in Japan. Pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply due to the potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus.

##### **(2) Recommendable Qualifications**

- 1) Expectations for the Participants  
Age: Between thirty (30) years and forty-five (45)  
Computer skill: be able to operate the personal computer and software (cf. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) up to a certain level
- 2) Officials who are working / have worked with the relevant JICA Technical Cooperation Projects are desirable

#### **3. Required Documents for Application**

- (1) **Application Form:** The Application Form is available at **the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan)**.
- (2) **Inception Report Document:** All applicants should prepare an Inception Report that describes present situation, current problems in their daily tasks to be addressed during this training program. It should be typewritten in English (12-point font, A4 size paper) in accordance with the instruction (see ANNEX I), and submitted together with the Application Form.
- (3) **Photocopy of passport:** to be submitted 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.

\*Photocopy should include the followings:

Name, Date of birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport number and Expire date.

**(4) English score sheet (optional):** Applicants are advised to submit a copy of official certificate of English language test, such as TOEFL, IELTS, etc.

**If there is no certificate, it is strongly requested that JICA Overseas Office in the recipient country have an interview with the nominee and send the result** of the interview with the application form to JICA Tsukuba.

#### **4. Procedures of application and selection :**

##### **(1) Submission of the application documents:**

Closing date of applications: **Please inquire to the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan).**

(After receiving applications, the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) will send them to **the JICA Center in JAPAN by April 10, 2017**)

##### **(2) Selection:**

After receiving the documents through proper channels from your government, the JICA office (or the embassy of Japan) will conduct screenings, and then forward the documents to the JICA Center in Japan. Selection will be made by the JICA Center in consultation with concerned organizations in Japan, namely New Business and Intellectual Property Division in Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and NCSS, based on submitted documents according to qualifications. The applying organization with the best intention to utilize the opportunity of this program will be highly valued in the selection. Qualifications of applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military will be examined by the Government of Japan on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan, taking into consideration their duties, positions in the organization, and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner.

##### **(3) Notice of acceptance**

Notification of results will be made by the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) **not later than May 12, 2017.**

#### **5. Document(s) to be submitted by accepted candidates:**

Inception Report (Presentation File) **in Microsoft Power point** to be submitted by **May 29, 2017:**

Before coming to Japan, only accepted candidates are required to prepare a presentation material about Inception Report (detailed information is provided in the ANNEX "Instruction for the Preparation of Inception Report".) **in Microsoft Power point format.** The presentation time allocated to each participant will be thirty (30) minutes including questions and answers. The presentation material should be sent to JICA by **May 29, 2017,** preferably by e-mail to [tbicttp@jica.go.jp](mailto:tbicttp@jica.go.jp)

#### **6. Conditions for Attendance:**

- (1) to strictly adhere to the program schedule.
- (2) not to change the program topics.
- (3) not to extend the period of stay in Japan.
- (4) not to be accompanied by family members during the program.

- (5) to return to home countries at the end of the program in accordance with the travel schedule designated by JICA.
- (6) to refrain from engaging in any political activities, or any form of employment for profit or gain.
- (7) to observe Japanese laws and ordinances. If there is any violation of said laws and ordinances, participants may be required to return part or all of the training expenditure depending on the severity of said violation.
- (8) to observe the rules and regulations of the accommodation and not to change the accommodation designated by JICA.

## 7. Abbreviations:

- DUS: Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability
- MAFF: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
- NCSS: National Center for Seeds and Seedlings
- PCM: Project Cycle Management
- PDM: Project Design Matrix
- PVP: Plant Variety Protection
- UPOV: International Union for the Protection of New Variety of Plants
- JFY: Japan Fiscal Year (start from April to March)

# IV. Administrative Arrangements

## 1. Organizer:

- (1) **Name:** JICA TSUKUBA
- (2) **Contact:** Ms. Fumiko HIRAOKA ([tbicttp@jica.go.jp](mailto:tbicttp@jica.go.jp))

## 2. Implementing Partners:

- Intellectual Property Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF),
- Center for Seeds and Seedlings NARO (NCSS)

## 3. Travel to Japan:

- (1) **Air Ticket:** The cost of a round-trip ticket between an international airport designated by JICA and Japan through Vietnam will be borne by JICA.
- (2) **Travel Insurance:** Coverage is from time of arrival up to departure in Japan. Thus traveling time outside Japan will not be covered.

## 4. Accommodation in Japan:

JICA will arrange the following accommodation in Japan:

JICA Tsukuba International Center (JICA TSUKUBA)  
 Address: 3-6 Koyadai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken 305-0074, Japan  
 TEL: +81-29-838-1111  
 (“81” is the country code of Japan, and “29” is the local area code)

Please refer to facility information of JICA Tsukuba at the URL below.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/tsukuba/english/office/c8h0vm00009y1r70-att/tsukuba\\_facility.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/tsukuba/english/office/c8h0vm00009y1r70-att/tsukuba_facility.pdf)

If there is no vacancy at JICA Tsukuba, JICA will arrange alternative accommodations for the participants.

## 5. Expenses:

The following expenses will be provided for the participants by JICA:

- (1) Allowances for accommodation, meals, living expenses, outfit, and shipping
- (2) Expenses for study tours (basically in the form of train tickets.)
- (3) Free medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are not included)
- (4) Expenses for program implementation, including materials

For more details, please see “III. ALLOWANCES” of the brochure for participants titled “KENSHU-IN GUIDE BOOK,” which will be given before departure for Japan.

## 6. Pre-departure Orientation:

A pre-departure orientation will be held at the respective country’s JICA office (or Embassy of Japan), to provide participants with details of travel to Japan, conditions of the workshop, and other matters.

# V. Other Information

1. **This training course is more than three (3) months, so participants should get visa for more than 3 months to stay in Japan.**
2. **Participants who need visa to enter Vietnam (\*) will apply after arriving in Japan. Therefore, please carry the following items.**
  - **One piece of photo, size 4cm × 3cm**
  - **Passport valid until the end of March 2018**  
(=six months after their arrivals in Vietnam) **or longer with two blank pages**

\* Participants from **Sri Lanka, Kyrgyz, Timor-Leste, Moldova, Zambia, Bangladesh and Argentine** need the visa to enter Vietnam.
3. **Participant from Argentine in which there is a risk of **Yellow Fever** is requested to carry the vaccination certificate. If he/she does not have the certificate and needs to get the vaccination in Japan, the cost of the vaccination should be borne by the participant.**
3. **Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptop computer and conversion adaptor.** During the training, participants are required to prepare presentation materials, reports, saving many photos and training materials by computers. Most of the accommodations have internet access. The electrical current in Japan is 100 volts, 50 cycles, and the plug shape is A type.  
Those who can’t bring their own computer, should contact Ms. HIRAOKA at [tbictp@jica.go.jp](mailto:tbictp@jica.go.jp) JICA Tsukuba by email prior to departure to Japan.
4. Participants who have successfully completed the program will be awarded a certificate by JICA.
5. It is also recommended that participants bring photographs, drawings, traditional goods and others such as clothes, instruments, ornaments to help them introduce their countries.

## **VI. ANNEX I:**

### **Instruction for the Preparation of Inception Report Document**

**(To be submitted with Application Form by all candidates)**

The Inception Report is an introductory report which describes the current situation of each participant's organization/country regarding the topic of the program, and will be developed into the Action Plan at the end of the program.

Before compiling the Inception Report, it is recommended for the applicants to consult their senior colleague or supervisors of their organizations and to have the report authorized by them.

Suggested topics of the Inception Report are the followings.

- 1) Regulations or laws related to intellectual property rights for new plant varieties such as Plant Variety Protection System in your country, including its conformity with the UPOV Convention.
- 2) Regulations or laws related to seed and seedling production, distribution and marketing etc. in your country.
- 3) Regulations or laws related to seed testing or other seed quality control system, if any other than 1) and 2) above.
- 4) Situation regarding plant breeding activities in your country etc.
- 5) If your country works on the following subjects, please state details of procedure.
  - a) DUS growing test in relation to PVP system
  - b) Seed health (testing of seed-borne pathogens according to ISTA rules)
- 6) Current problems regarding the above subjects, which need to be addressed within 2-3 years. These may include administrative and/or legal issues.
- 7) Please categorize the problems stated above according to the groups below.
  - a) Problems to be solved by the capacity of your division/department.
  - b) Problems to be solved with supports of other departments or institutions
  - c) Problems to be solved with supports of other countries.
- 8) Please state briefly about the questions below.
  - a) Whether there is any support for quality control of seeds, production and distribution of high quality seeds and plant variety protection (DUS training, establishment of test guideline, etc.) from countries other than Japan. If there is, please state the name of the countries and donor agencies.
  - b) Whether your country is cooperating with foreign countries for the examination of plant varieties under the PVP system. If it is, please state the name of the countries, donor agencies, name of plants, etc.
  - c) Important plants in your country.
- 9) Please attach photos of your office and staff (if possible).

#### **Notes:**

All applicants are requested to make Inception Report Document in Microsoft Word Format and submit it **with Application Form**.

## **VI. ANNEX II:**

### **Instruction for the Preparation of Inception Report (Presentation File)** **(To be submitted by May 29, 2017 by accepted participants only)**

All accepted participants are requested to prepare Inception Report presentation file compiling the contents of the Inception Report Document in Microsoft Power point format.

Presentation of the Inception Report will be arranged **30** minutes (incl. **10** minutes Q&A) for each participant after the arrival at Japan.

In this regards, that all participants are expected prepare 15 slides or less.

Suggested topics of the presentation are the summary of the Inception Report Document, mainly focusing on problems or challenges on PVP & quality control system of seeds and your job responsibility.

*※Inception Report presentation should NOT be a presentation about general information of your country.*

#### **【Accepted participants】**

Accepted participants are requested to compile Inception Report in **Microsoft Powerpoint** format.

The compiled Inception Report should be sent to JICA by **May 29, 2017**, preferably by e-mail to [tbictp@jica.go.jp](mailto:tbictp@jica.go.jp).

## ***For Your Reference***

### **JICA and Capacity Development**

The key concept underpinning JICA operations since its establishment in 1974 has been the conviction that “capacity development” is central to the socioeconomic development of any country, regardless of the specific operational scheme one may be undertaking, i.e. expert assignments, development projects, development study projects, training programs, JOCV programs, etc.

Within this wide range of programs, Training Programs have long occupied an important place in JICA operations. Conducted in Japan, they provide partner countries with opportunities to acquire practical knowledge accumulated in Japanese society. Participants dispatched by partner countries might find useful knowledge and re-create their own knowledge for enhancement of their own capacity or that of the organization and society to which they belong.

About 460 pre-organized programs 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 and are being customized to address the specific needs of different target organizations, 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 was the first non-Western country to successfully modernize its society and industrialize its economy. At the core of this process, which started more than 140 years ago, was the “*adopt and adapt*” concept by which a wide range of appropriate skills and knowledge have been imported from developed countries; these skills and knowledge have been adapted and/or improved using local skills, knowledge and initiatives. They finally became internalized in Japanese society to suit its local needs and conditions.

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 this “*adoption and adaptation*” process, which, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories. We presume that such experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, will be useful to our partners who are trying to address the challenges currently faced by developing countries.

However, it is rather challenging to share with our partners this whole body of Japan’s developmental experience. This difficulty has to do, in part, with the challenge of explaining a body of “tacit knowledge,” a type of knowledge that cannot fully be expressed in words or numbers. Adding to this difficulty are the social and cultural systems of Japan that vastly differ from those of other Western industrialized countries, and hence still remain unfamiliar to many partner countries. Simply stated, coming to Japan might be one way of overcoming such a cultural gap.

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.



***CORRESPONDENCE***

For inquiries and further information, please contact the JICA office or the Embassy of Japan. Further, address correspondence to:

**Tsukuba International Center, JICA (JICA Tsukuba)**

Address: 3-6 Koyadai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken 305-0074, Japan

TEL: +81-29-838-1111

FAX: +81-29-838-1119

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