



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program)

General Information on Improving Quality of Basic Education JFY2024

長期研修
「子どもの学びの改善（2024年度）」

This handout provides an overview of the “Improving Quality of Basic Education” program/course, which is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). The program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between respective governments.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. Background

What is 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.

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

JICA-DSP is being carried out by JICA as part of official development assistance (ODA) by the government of Japan. JICA-DSP is offered for international scholars accepted as the participants of JICA’s Human Resource Development Project who are enrolled in a degree program at a Japanese university.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/dsp-chair/english/dsp/overview/index.html>

1. Overview

With a view to create faster economic growth and the removal of structural impediments, the Government of South Africa has focused on providing the quality education for all in National Development Plan 2030. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) also announced its "Action Plan to 2024 Towards the realization of Schooling 2030" in 2020, which is intended to lead to the better learning outcomes.

In South Africa, there are still learning challenges particularly in poor outcomes at all levels in mathematics. An issue in the country's basic education sector is low academic achievement. This is evident in the results of academic achievement surveys such as the Southern and Eastern Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality (SAQMEC), as well as the results of the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2019.

In this context, the South African government in National Development Plan 2030 has set a goal of 50% of learners achieving 90% achievement, and DBE aims for schools to provide quality education to all learners by 2030.

As a specific measure for improving the quality of elementary math education, DBE defines in its policy paper, Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), that "arithmetic and mathematics can develop mental processes that enhance logical thinking, critical thinking, accuracy, problem-solving skills, and decision-making skills." In order to improve learners' math skills, DBE aims not only to improve test scores, but also to create lessons that enable learners to think conceptually about mathematical ideas. In this context, DBE is implementing a pilot project based on the Mathematics Teaching and Learning Framework for South Africa: Teaching Mathematics for Understanding (TMU), which began in 2018, through curriculum revision for arithmetic and mathematics, creation of instructional materials for teachers, and training. Through these efforts, JICA is supporting the creation of classes and learner-centered learning based on mathematical concepts.

With this background, JICA will launch a long-term training course, "Program for Improvement in Children's Learning" for the purpose of contributing to improving children's learning on mathematics. Therefore, the theme of this training course focuses on mathematics education.

2. Objectives

The objective of this Program is to train personnel of the DBE, who will be assigned to support strengthening mathematics education at primary and/or secondary levels after completing the master's program in Japan. This program offers opportunities for such personnel to study at graduate courses for master's degree in Japanese graduate schools as international students (hereafter referred to as participants). Beyond acquisition of skills and knowledge, this program also intends to have the participants understand and get familiar with the contexts of Japanese culture and systems. The expected outcome of the program is that competent personnel with the master's degree will be produced to support the DBE strengthening primary and secondary education in mathematics.

3. Course Outline

- (1) Program Title: Improving Quality of Basic Education
- (2) Language of the Program: English
- (3) Duration: Apr, 2025 – Mar, 2027 (2 years)
- (4) Numbers of Participants: One (1)
- (5) Target Participants: Government official who will be assigned to the post of being in charge of strengthening mathematics primary and/or secondary levels after completing the program in Japan.
- (6) Contents of the Program

Graduate Course Program	Master's degree course - Lecture and Practical Subject - Research works for the thesis - Field Research and other additional activities in Japan and/or Home Country * It will be planned in accordance with the research theme and the consultation with the supervising professor.
Additional Special Program	JICA will provide Short-term Special Program in order to have the participants understand and get familiar with the contexts of Japanese culture and systems.

4. Duration

In principle, 2 years for master's course

5. Fields of Study

The field of study is available for the participants as listed below.

- Mathematics Education

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Candidate applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	- Citizens of the target countries (South Africa)
(2) Age	- Basically, applicants must be under 40 years old
(3) Education	- At least 16 years of academic background or equivalent - A bachelor's degree (Bachelor of Technology included) with

	honours or equivalent to NQF8 or above and a minimum average of 65% in academic transcripts
(4) Working Experience /Status	Applicants are required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to have more than 5 years working experience in the field of teacher education and - to obtain permission for application from their current organizations.
(5) English Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate English proficiency, both in written and oral communication, in order to complete the master's degree. - Applicants must submit English certificate (e.g. TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS) which will be taken into account for selection.
(6) Understanding of the Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants are required to have clear understanding of the objectives of the Program, and have a strong will to contribute to the development of the education sector in South Africa as well as to strengthen the linkage between their countries and Japan after returning home. - Applicants are expected to be teacher educators in TECs after completion of the Program.
(7) Others	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - both physically and mentally fit for the program, - not receiving or planning to receive a scholarship offered by other foreign organizations, - attend the activities on the weekends in unavoidable circumstances(ex. official exam)

8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree.

9. Application Guidelines

Each applicant is required to submit the following documents by the deadline set by JICA South Africa Office on or before **16:30 July 15th, 2024.**

Application	(1) Application Form (Annex 1)
--------------------	--------------------------------

Documents	<p>(2) Research plan (Annex 2)</p> <p>(3) Undergraduate degree graduation certificate * Must contain all the grades earned in the university. * Notarized copies of the original which officially certified. * Written in English or accompanied with official translation.</p> <p>(4) Academic transcript * Must contain all the grades earned in the university. * Notarized copies of the original which officially certified. * Written in English or accompanied with official translation</p> <p>(5) A letter of recommendation from home country's government, Japanese company, Embassy of Japan, Japanese university, if you have *Additional recommendation letter may require through selection procedure**</p> <p>(6) A copy of Passport with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth. National ID and birth certificate are acceptable if you do not have Passport. Certified English translation must be attached if ID is not written in English)</p> <p>(7) 2 ID Photos (4 cm × 3 cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy).</p> <p>(8) Health certificate to be submitted after the Selection</p> <p>(9) English Certificate (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, etc) *If an applicant is unable to submit "Language Proficiency Test Score Certificate", an official document such as a letter made by the university or an employer which certifies that the medium of instruction in the institution of the applicant is English will be accepted.</p>
------------------	--

10. Schedule

(1) Selection Procedures

[1st Step] Screening of the Application Documents by JICA

Period: - **First half of August 2024**

JICA will conduct the screening whether qualifications of the applicants meet the program's aim and match the target fields by the documents submitted.

[2nd Step] 2nd Screening (interview) by JICA and the University

Period: - **Latter half of August 2024 - First half of September 2024**

JICA will conduct the screening whether qualifications of the applicants who passed 1st Step meet the program's aim and match the target fields by conducting interviews via skype or TV conferences system. The interview will be conducted jointly by JICA and the University. The date and time of interview will be informed later.

[3rd Step] Official Application to Universities

Period: **First half of November 2024**

Applicants who passed 2nd Step will apply to Japanese Universities. The applicants must submit the application documents required by the University. Announcement of application results will be done by the end of May.

(2) Approval of the Successful Candidates

Successful candidates passing the Selection will be officially approved as participants of the program **by the end of December 2024**. Each approved participants will fill out an official application form for the JICA program and officially submitted to JICA for formal procedures.

* Any costs incurred during the selection procedures including travel expenses to selection venues will NOT BE COVERED by JICA.

* The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.

11. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

Under the JICA Long-term Trainee Allowance standards, JICA will cover expenses and allowance to participants accepted to the program/course. See the table below for further details. Note that the payments (e.g. for tuition, research support expenses, school support expenses) will not be paid to the accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
Tuition (official examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance*	JPY 117,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY103,750 – 106,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance***	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period)**
Research Support Expenses****	Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year)	
Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.

***Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

****Research Support Expenses are allowed to be provided via the university and be disbursed with the consultation and approval of the applicant's supervisor.

12. Expenses Not To Be Borne By JICA

JICA will not bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA is not responsible for the following expenses especially:

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa
- (4) Domestic travel expenses at the applicant's home country
- (5) Departure tax
- (6) Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7) Customs duty
- (8) Excess baggage charges
- (9) Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10) "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Lost - ticket fee
- (12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel in return flight

- (13) Transportation expenses other than official programs
- (14) Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
- (15) Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, and dental treatment
- (16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180 days
- (17) “National Health Insurance” fee

Note: If participant/accepted applicant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other cost of necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation

The accepted applicants/participants of KCCP are required:

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
- (2) to be in good health to participate in the program,
- (3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
- (4) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
- (5) to accept that 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,
- (6) to submit a Health Certificate in JICA format at the participant’s expense. The certificate must be the results of health check-up at the time the participant applied to the entrance examinations (within 6 months before arrival in Japan),
- (7) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if the participant will not be able to arrive within 6 months from the date of his/her first medical examination. The cost of the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA only if the delay is not due to the participant’s personal reasons,
- (8) to return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,
- (9) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
- (10) to understand that inviting participant’s family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
- (11) 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,
- (12) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments (“Plagiarism“ especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants

may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),

- (13) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (14) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (15) not to drive a car or motorbike, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (16) to discontinue the program, should the participant violate Japanese laws or JICA's regulations, or commit illegal or immoral conduct, or become critically ill or seriously injured 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 expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
- (17) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (18) not to be receiving nor plan to receive another scholarship during the program,
- (19) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA KCCP (long-term) at the same time,
- (20) to understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)" is 60 days, in principle, and
- (21) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so.



CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact your nearest JICA office.

JICA South Africa Office

Lord Charles, Building -B, 1st Floor, Cnr. Justice Mohamed and Brooklyn Streets,
Brooklyn, Pretoria, South Africa Mailing Address: P.O. Box 35425, Menlo Park,
0102, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa

TEL +27 -12-346-4493