Long Term Capacity Development Program for Myanmar Private Sector (LCDP)

General Information
JFY2027

This handout provides an overview of the “Long-Term Capacity Development Program for Myanmar Private Sector” (LCDP), which is one of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s programs. The program will be implemented by JICA through the Myanmar Japan Center for Human Resource Development (MJC) as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan.

The objective of this program is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their networks of people.

0. Background

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

Japan is the very first country and still is one of the very few countries that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. With such belief, JICA invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan under KCCP, and offers them opportunity to learn about Japan's unique modernization and development experiences. This special program is called, JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP).

JICA-DSP is provided to all participants of KCCP during their stay in Japan. JICA will offer participants various opportunities through which they can learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/dsp-chair/index.html

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet revised the Development Cooperation Charter in June 2023, 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.

1. Overview

This program/course, “Long-Term Capacity Development Program for Myanmar Private Sector（LCDP）”, was established under the framework of JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) for the purpose of promoting the cooperation of sustainable development in the world.

The program/course will offer participants with special curricula on Japanese developmental experience（JICA-DSP） and internships, if necessary, in addition to obtaining a Master’s degree/Doctoral Degree.

2. Objectives

(1) To develop high-level human resources in the private sector who can contribute to development and strengthening of the private sector in Myanmar.

(2) To establish and maintain mid- and long-term amicable relationships between Myanmar and Japan.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of scholars from Myanmar into designated universities in Japan.

This handout provides information related to long-term courses including Master’s degree courses and Ph.D. courses. Applicants may select the university, to which he/she wishes to apply, from among the universities which have concluded an agreement on accepting JICA participants on the condition that the candidate passes the entrance examination of the selected university. Detailed information on these partner universities will be provided separately.

In addition to curricula of the Master’s and Ph.D. courses, activities such as short-term programs and/or internship programs will be planned in order to enrich the participants’ academic and personal experiences during their courses of studies at the universities.

Accepted applicants are recommended to participate in internship programs at public or private entities during their stay in Japan. JICA will prepare the contents and schedule of the internship in close consultation with the participants and host organizations. In principle, no remuneration or compensation will be paid to the participants or host organizations.

This program is implemented on the premise that participants return to Myanmar promptly upon completion of their studies and contribute to the development of Myanmar by utilizing the knowledge, skills, and experience gained through the program. Applicants are therefore expected to actively engage in their academic studies, research activities, and practical

learning opportunities with a view to applying such learning in Myanmar after completing the program.

4. Duration

2 years for Master's course and 3 years for Ph.D. course (depending on the program offered by each university)[1].

5. Number of Participants

Around 15 candidates (TBD）
Doctoral Degree: A few participants (Expected from 1~2)
Master's Degree: 13~15

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy all of the following requirements:
(1) Nationality: Must be a national of Myanmar
(2) Age: Should be between the ages 22 and 39 as of 1st April, 2027.
(Born on/after 2nd April, 1987 and on/before 1st April, 2005)
(3) Occupation:
1) Have a work experience for 2 years or more
2) Have an awareness of social responsibility, **be committed to returning to Myanmar promptly upon completion of the program, and be willing to contribute to the development of the private sector in Myanmar and network with Japan**.
(4) Study Field to Offer:
Business
Economics
Tourism
Agriculture/Environment
Engineering/ Information Technology
(5) Academic Background:
For Master's programs: a Bachelor's degree holder
For Ph.D. programs: a Master's degree holder
(6) Language: Sufficient English proficiency (in reading, writing, listening and speaking) equivalent to or higher than the scores listed below, as required for the specialized and academic education necessary to complete a Master's or Doctoral program;

[1] The preparatory period as a research student or credited auditor prior to the regular student up to 6 months may be added.

IELTS: 6.5
TOEFL PBT 550
TOEIC 800
Duolingo: 120-125

* JICA will NOT bear the cost necessary for obtaining an English proficiency score.

(7) Study in Japan: Must enroll in a Master's degree/Doctoral degree at a Japanese university from around September 2027 (Depending on course).
If the applicants will be approved as a research student, enrollment as a regular student will begin in April 2028.

(8) Participation in MJC program: Those who have taken the MJC business courses or be executives of the companies that have participated in the MJC business courses and activities before are eligible.
(Those who have taken related business management courses at UMFCCI are also eligible.)

(9) Health Conditions: Must be in good mental and physical health to complete the program abroad.

(10) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for the program. JICA/MJC is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, providing equal opportunities to all applicants regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

(11) Others (Non-eligible conditions):
1) Applicants who are currently receiving (or are scheduled to receive) another scholarship shall NOT be eligible for selection.
2) Applicants who are permanent residents of countries other than Myanmar shall NOT be eligible for selection
3) Applicants who cannot physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete the program shall NOT be eligible for selection

8. Selection

(1) Candidates will be selected through MJC's internal selection procedure (MJC Selection Committee) first.

(2) Then, the selected candidates must, after undergoing pre-matching process, pass the general entrance examination of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter their desired Master's or Ph.D course.
Inquiries regarding the results of MJC's screening procedure and the university's general entrance examination will not be accepted.

(3) The candidates are required to submit a Certificate of Health in the prescribed JICA format (The timing of the submission in the selection step TBD).

(4) JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall make a decision on acceptance or rejection based on several factors such as entrance examination results, the planned number of participants, medical examination results and others. The reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

9. Application Guidelines

(1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each applicant is required to submit the “Application Documents” listed in (2) below to MJC.

(2) Application Documents

1) Long-Term Capacity Development Program for Myanmar Private Sector for FY 2027 Application Form

consists of:

- OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM
- Part A: Information on the Applying Organization
- Part B: Information about the Applicant
    1. Desired University Information
       （Applicants can choose maximum two universities for Master’s course for pre-matching.）
    2. Research Plan
    3. Career Plan after Graduation
       (Applicants must explain how they intend to contribute to Myanmar after completion of the program.)
- Declaration by Applicant, Declaration by Parent or Family Representative

2) Graduation certificate.

* Officially certified copies of the original
* Written in English or accompanied with official translation

3) Academic transcript

* Must contain all the grades earned at the university the applicant attended
* Officially certified copies of the original transcript
* Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English

4) Photocopy of certificate of English Test

* Applicants must bear the fees for English proficiency test or other necessary fees for preparation of application documents.

5) A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).

6) 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) attached to the application form (Original and copy)

7） Health certificate (The submission deadline will be announced by JICA/MJC. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1 2027. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.)

*All these documents except for the declarations should be typed, printed out and signed by the applicant and the head of the relevant department / division of the organization in charge in all pages. Handwritten forms will NOT be accepted.

10. Selection Procedures

*There are no fees to be charged directly by JICA during the selection process. *Any costs incurred during the selection procedures including travel expenses, documents preparation (photos, official notification etc.) and any other personal expenses will NOT BE COVERED by JICA but should be covered by applicants. *The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.

There are three main selection processes:

(1) MJC selection (including the first and second selection)
(2) Pre-Matching with Japanese universities
(3) Selection by JICA including the selection of Japanese universities (entrance examination).

Notions;

- Each applicant needs to submit the Application Documents by the deadline (11th December 2026). Please check them with MJC for the details.
- Applicants are recommended to look for laboratories and/or professors at universities of interest on their website and write the career and research plans.
- 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.

(1) MJC Selection

Based on the above documents, MJC will conduct the **first and second selection** as the first step.

Period	December 2026 - January 2027 (tentative)
Contents	Document screening, interview in person
Objectives	To select the applicants for respective university courses/supervisors
Selection	MJC will examine your submitted documents as the first selection and conduct an interview as the second selection to check whether the submitted application materials are consistent with the objectives of this program.
Result	MJC will inform the applicants of the name(s) of the universities where the applicant can proceed to pre-matching with Japanese universities.

(2) Pre-Matching with Japanese universities

Based on the screening by MJC, pre-matching with universities will be conducted.

Period	February – March 2027 (tentative)
Contents	Document screening, interview (if necessary)
Objectives	To match applicants with university courses/supervisors
Selection	JICA/MJC will send Application Documents to the applicants' desired universities. Universities will examine the documents to check if the applicant's field of study and research plan match the courses/supervisors. During this process, universities may contact the applicants for their evaluation. A university may conduct a remote interview during this process. *If the university requires choosing a supervisor that the applicant would like to study under, the applicants need to do so before pre-matching.
Result	JICA/MJC will inform the applicants of the name(s) of universities where the applicant can apply for. Only those applicants who are accepted through the Japanese universities' matching can proceed to the entrance examination by the Japanese University.

(3) Selection by JICA including the selection by Japanese University (entrance examination)

Each applicant needs to decide on one university to apply and check the necessary application documents required by the university. Then, he/she needs to submit the university's application documents directly to the university by the deadline set by the university. It is ALL the applicant's responsibility to duly submit required documents to the university by its deadline. JICA/MJC will NOT intervene in this process. However, the entrance examinations admission fee is paid directly to each university by JICA/MJC and does not need to be covered by the applicants themselves. JICA will determine the result taking into consideration the result of the university's examination and other factors.

- Some universities require sending hard copies of documents to Japan.
  * JICA/MJC will NOT cover the cost of postage.
- During this selection process, each applicant may be interviewed by the respective university depending on the university's selection process.

Period	March – July 2027 (tentative)
Contents	Screening of submitted university's application documents and interviews by Japanese universities
Objectives	To select the final candidates
Venue	If necessary, Zoom, Teams or other means for interviews
Selection	JICA will determine the final acceptance of the applicant in consideration of the result of the university's examination. Universities will screen the applicants through submitted university's application documents and interviews, etc.

Result	The applicants who pass this selection will be selected as successful participants of the program. *JICA/MJC may adjust the number of candidates during this selection due to budgetary reasons. Therefore, some of the applicants who pass university's entrance examination may not be selected as successful participants of the program.

Notes:

- If all of an applicant's desired universities judge to accept the applicant at the Pre-Matching, JICA/MJC will instruct the applicant to apply to the university that accepts the applicant as a regular student.
- Any inquiries about the results of JICA/MJC's screening procedure and the University's general entrance examination will not be accepted.
- Withdrawal of the Application: If applicants encounter a situation that requires withdrawing the application due to force majeure during the selection process, the applicants need to contact JICA/MJC and explain the situation as soon as possible.

11. Schedule (Tentative)*

Date	Process
End of October 2026	Announcement
November 2026	Introductory session for the applicants (Online, not mandatory)
11th December 2026	Application deadline *Please ensure that application documents must arrive at MJC no later than 11th of December.
Mid January 2027	Shortlist announcement (1st selection)
Late January 2027	Selection interview (2nd selection)
End January 2027	Result notification for deciding nominees for pre-matching
February-March 2027	Pre-Matching for the university through JICA/MJC
March-June 2027	Application for Desired University (directly by candidate)
March-July 2027	General Entrance Examination of University
July-August 2027	Determination of Program Participation/Final results notification（By JICA/MJC）
September 2027	Orientation and Preparation before departure
September-October 2027	Beginning of Fall 2027 Term at university

12. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA/MJC

Under the JICA long-term trainee allowance standards, JICA/MJC will cover expenses and allowances for 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.

Allowance Item	Amount of Payment	Frequency
(1) Fee for official Entrance Examination/Entrance/Tuition	Actual costs	JICA/MJC pays directly to the university.
(2) Outfit Allowance	JPY 100,000	Paid by JICA/MJC to participant through SMBC bank account upon their arrival. * The SMBC bank card will be given by participant's respective JICA Domestic Center.
(3) Living Allowance (*After arrival until participants receives the living allowance from the university)	*JICA Center: JPY2,800/day (*including breakfast and dinner) *Hotel and other facilities: JPY5,000/day	
(4) Living Allowance (Monthly Stipend)	JPY143,000~JPY148,000/Month *depending on the location of participant's university and status	Paid by the university according to the schedule of the university. Please note that it may take several months to receive the scholarship.
(5) Airfare	Actual Cost	Provided in kind through arrangements made by JICA; no cash payment will be made.
(6) Moving Allowance * Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.	JPY164,000~ JPY224,000 * depending on the location of participant's university	Paid by JICA to participant, only once during the training period
(7) Research Support Expenses	Actual costs (up to JPY 360,000 per year)	Paid by the university upon application(s)
(8) Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are NOT	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance (to be provided by JICA/MJC)	-

included).		

- **Living Allowance** varies according to the living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.
- **Outfit Allowance** is provided only once, after opening a bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have a bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during this period.
- **Moving Allowance** is provided depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.
- **Research Support Expenses** are allowed to be provided via the university and will be disbursed in consultation with and approval from the applicant's supervisor.

13. Expenses Not To Be Borne By JICA/MJC

JICA/MJC will NOT bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA/MJC is NOT responsible for the following expenses:

(1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
(2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain a Visa
(3) Transportation expenses to obtain a Japanese Visa
(4) Domestic travel expenses in 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" for the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
(11) Lost - ticket fee
(12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel on a return flight
(13) Transportation expenses other than for official programs
(14) Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
(15) Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment
(16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180 days
(17) National Health Insurance fee
(18) Cost of postage
(19) Cost for obtaining English proficiency score
(20) Other cost which is not listed in 12. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA/MJC.

Note: If a participant/accepted applicant does not follow the regulations of JICA/MJC, the participant may have to bear such other costs or necessary expenses.

14. Conditions for Participation

The accepted applicants/participants of this program are required

(1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program on the date designated by JICA/MJC.

(2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA/MJC) and lodging at the transit point and upon arrival in Japan by the participants on their own,

(3) to arrange lodging during the scholarship program by the participants on their own.

(4) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,

(5) to understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended until their stay in Japan exceeds 6 months,

(6) to return to their home country on the flight designated by JICA/MJC, 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,

(7) to understand that not returning to their home country promptly upon completion of the program may result in:

(i) termination of JICA/MJC support,

(ii) forfeiture of the return airfare arranged by JICA/MJC, and

(iii) other consequences that may arise in accordance with the program rules and agreements,

(8) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by the Japanese Government in respect of the course,

(9) to enroll in and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when receiving JICA/MJC's instructions to do so.

(10) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners providing the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken very seriously by enrolling universities, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),

(11) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,

(12) to agree to be dismissed from the program, should the participant (a)violate Japanese laws, JICA/MJC's regulations, or university's regulations, (b)commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, (c)become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan.

(13) to be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "12. Expenses To Be Borne by JICA/MJC,"

(14) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for this program depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,

(15) not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed,

(16) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,

(17) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA/MJC in the case of a change in schedule,

(18) 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 their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of

Japan,

(19) to submit a Health Certificate in JICA/MJC format at the applicant's expense. The date of the Health Certificate should be on or after the 1st April 2027. JICA/MJC will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants. (The submission deadline will be announced by JICA/MJC.)

(20) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA/MJC format if deemed necessary by JICA/MJC. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA/MJC unless it is required due to the candidate's fault.

(21) to promptly resubmit the medical history, if there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease,

(22) to be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when declaring "Medical History" prepared in "Application Form Annex,"

(23) neither to receive nor plan to receive other scholarships from the Japanese government, such as Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program,

(24) to understand not to apply other JICA/MJC training courses at the same time,

(25) to understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purposes)" is 60 days, in principle.

(26) to accept to undergo tuberculosis-related screenings organized by JICA/MJC after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA/MJC and university.

(27) to approve the following conditions regarding the summary of the thesis;

① Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA/MJC.

② Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who makes a request to JICA/MJC.

③ Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA/MJC or on the JICA/MJC website.

④ Photocopying the thesis shall be allowed for anyone with JICA/MJC's permission.

(28) to understand that the maximum duration of being a research student is 6 months for both Master's and Doctoral courses, and the duration of acceptance as a regular student is based on the course years determined by the university,

(29) To indicate all educational backgrounds, including currently enrolled universities, if any, and

(30) To understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application Forms including Research Plans, and your research papers may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if discovered, according to each university's policy. If it is found that this rule has been violated, the violator will not be allowed to apply for the LCDP program in the future.

Appendixes

1 University List
2 Application Form