



JICA Scholarship Course

OVERVIEW INFORMATION ON

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Leaders Capacity Development for the Sendai Framework Implementation (FY2020)

留学生プログラム「仙台防災枠組に貢献する防災中核人材育成」
2020年度

This information pertains to one of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). This handout gives current information on the overview of the program. It may change depending on the situation and more precise information will be provided in case of any changes. This program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both governments.

Each country may have its own schedule and/or qualifications for the program. Please contact JICA office in your country if you have any questions.

I. Overview

Background

Across the world, the number of natural disasters has increased in recent years, and in particular, there was a remarkable increase in economic damage. Disasters tend to occur in hazardous areas repeatedly and have huge impact on lives, livelihood and local economy. Much of the suffering caused by disaster damage affects the vulnerable, especially those in lower income brackets. Consequently, disaster risk reduction is regarded critical for sustainable economic growth.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March 2015, as a framework aiming to “substantially reduce disaster risk, and the loss of lives and livelihoods”. The Sendai Framework aligns the post 2015 development agenda such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement. In the Sendai Framework, seven global targets were agreed and only the Global Target (e) -- National and local disaster risk reduction strategies -- is planned to be achieved by 2020 as it is essential for all disaster risk reduction activities. Each country has a primary responsibility to implement and monitor the Sendai Framework in accordance with the Guiding Principal of that.

Japan is the one of the disaster-prone countries in the world and has a long history to coexist with natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, floods and landslides. This history of natural disasters and disaster risk reduction in Japan has generated unique “culture of disaster risk reduction” and various DRR knowledge and activities have been passed down through the generations since old times. Based on the accumulation of experience, Japan is well known for the DRR leading country in the present day. During the formulation process of the Sendai Framework, Japan reiterated the importance of “Investment in Disaster Risk Reduction”, “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction” and “Build Back Better” and these concepts were accepted in the framework.

Thus it will be the best opportunity to study and research on DRR field in Japan for deepening the understanding of the Sendai Framework and learning advanced DRR knowledge and technologies

Objectives

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Leaders Capacity Development for the Sendai Framework Implementation (FY2020) is a Master/Doctor Degree Scholarship Program specially provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with Japan's top-ranked universities, which shall be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan.

This Program provides excellent study and research opportunity for to-be leaders of DRR field to acquire high-level competence comprehensively covering both academic studies and practical knowledge.

The Program consists of a regular graduate program for study and research related to DRR at a Japanese university and additional DRR programs.

II. Course Outline

1. Title

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Leaders Capacity Development for the Sendai Framework Implementation (FY2020)

2. Duration and Academic Year

Master Degree 2 years (October 2020 – September 2022)

Doctor Degree 3 years (October 2020 – September 2023)

3. Target Countries

Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Mongol, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran

4. Target Organization

Central/National DRR agency and DRR-related agencies

5. Target Personnel

(1) Essential Requirement

- ✓ Personnel working at target organizations
- ✓ Practical experience in DRR field especially working at governmental agencies
- ✓ Educational Background (at least Bachelor Degree)
- ✓ Linguistic skills required to take courses and receive research guidance in **English** (You need to meet English requirements described in the application guidance of each university.)
- ✓ Good health, both physically and mentally, to participate in the Program in Japan
- ✓ Other requirements for application to each university such as GPA, etc.

(2) Recommendable Qualifications

- ✓ Those who are expected to play a leading role in Disaster Risk Reduction in the future
- ✓ Those who have flexible adaptability and receptivity for study and research in a foreign country
- ✓ Age of under 35 years old for a master degree or 40 years old for a doctoral degree
- ✓ More than five (5) years of working experience in DRR

6. Number of participants

Maximum 5 participants

7. Language to be used in this program

English

8. Overall Goal

Participants will be pro-Japan leaders on DRR field in their countries and contribute to implementing the Sendai Framework and playing a vital role in leading the discussion on international level.

9. Program Purpose

Participants of the Long-term Program are expected:

- (1) To obtain Master's or Doctor's degree in Japanese Universities
- (2) To learn Japanese experiences and knowledge on disaster risk reduction
- (3) To enhance relationship and network among participants and DRR human resources in Japan

10. Program Outlines:

The program consists of three (3) large components as below.

(1) Study and research (Master/doctor degree course)

- ✓ Acquire theoretical knowledge systematically
- ✓ Improve the ability to solve problems through research activities
- ✓ Acquire master/doctor degree in the following Universities/Schools/Departments;

University	School	Department/Lab
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	-	Disaster Management Ph.D. Program (Doctor only) collaborated with "International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICCHARM)"
Tohoku University	Graduate School of Science and Faculty of Science	- Department of Geophysics - Department of Earth Science
	Graduate School of Information Sciences	- Department of Human-Social Information Sciences, Infrastructure Planning Division
	Graduate School of Engineering	- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
	International Research Institute of Disaster Sciences (IRIDeS)	- Hazard and Risk Evaluation Research Division - Human and Social Response Research Division - Regional and Urban Reconstruction Research Division - Disaster Information Management and Public Collaboration Division

Please refer the Annex 1 for the detailed information on the available universities/departments.

(2) **Additional DRR program**

JICA will provide additional program for the purpose to improve practical abilities, strengthen networks and deep understanding of Japanese DRR field knowledge. We plan that all participants will join in JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction” that is 2 weeks program held in Tokyo and Kobe.

(3) **Common program (Optional)**

In addition to the above-mentioned programs, JICA will implement the common programs for JICA participants. Some programs will be conducted by JICA domestic offices to promote international exchanges and cultural understandings between JICA participants and regional residents.

Also JICA will conduct a program, offering participants an opportunities to gain a deep understanding of the Japanese development experience, and to draw lessons and gain insights that will support their development work in their home countries and internationally.

III. Application Guidance

Selection process contains the following steps. Please find the Annex 2 “Selection Schedule” for the detailed schedule.

1. Course Entry to JICA
2. Matching Process (Tohoku University only)
3. University’s Academic Selection
4. JICA’s Selection
5. Final Acceptance Decision by JICA

1. Course Entry to JICA

Applicants to the course must submit the completed entry format (Attached Document 1) to JICA Office in your country by the closing dates through the appropriate procedure of your country. The closing date is defined by the JICA office in each country based on the following timelines; therefore, please inquire the closing date for the entry of each schedule to the JICA office in your country.

- Schedule B Entry shown in as the Annex 2: the JICA office will inform them to the JICA Headquarter in JAPAN by **February 10, 2020** for
 - National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) PH.D Program collaborated with “International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)”;
 - Graduate School of Information Sciences, Tohoku University
 - Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University
 - International Research Institute of Disaster Sciences (IRIDeS), Tohoku University

Note:

- A) This entry process is essential to accept an applicant as a JICA Scholarship Course.
- B) Prior to submitting the entry format to the JICA Office, please carefully confirm that you meet the application requirement (ex: English skill, evaluation point, etc.) of the interested department or program and describe the result on the entry format.

You can confirm the requirement for application of each university/department. Some information may be updated or revised.

- Graduate School of Science and Faculty of Science, Tohoku University
<http://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/english/igpas/application.html>
- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) PH.D Program collaborated with “International Centre for Water Hazard

and Risk Management (ICHARM)”;

http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/training/phd/phd_index.html

- Graduate School of Information Sciences, Graduate School of Engineering, International Research Institute of Disaster Sciences (IRIDeS), Tohoku University (common application guidance for 3 schools and institute)

<http://www.civil.tohoku.ac.jp/english/I-CEEC/admission/index.html>

- C) Matching procedure will be based on information described in the submitted entry format. Especially, research theme is very critical information to consider the available supervisor; therefore please carefully explain details within 200 words.
- D) JICA will not accept or consider any entries received after the stated deadline or any incomplete formats.
- E) You must follow the governmental procedure to submit the entry format to JICA Office in your country.
- F) You must not contact universities directly until the completion of next matching procedure.

2. Matching Process (Tohoku University only)

JICA provides entry information to the Tohoku University and the university conducts the Matching Process. The result of the Matching Process will be mainly judged by whether there is the available supervisor who can instruct the research theme or not. The result is informed by JICA Office in your country and only applicants who pass the Matching Process can apply for the next step (university application).

Note:

- A) Generally, Matching Process will be proceeded based on information described in the submitted entry format; however, the university contacts to an applicant to clarify some points as needed.
- B) Applicants for **GRIPS/ICHARM Disaster Management Ph.D. Program** do not need this Matching Process. Please proceed to the next step of academic application to the university.

3. University's Academic Selection

Applicants who pass the Matching Process submit required documents in accordance with the application guidance of the applied university/department. Application qualifications, procedures and application period vary depending on each university/ department; therefore, please access to the website or contact to the admission division of the university to confirm the latest information and schedule. The academic selection will be made by each university based on the application, academic transcripts, related documents, screening and interview processes including an Internet-based interview, etc. Notifications of academic

selection results will be announced by the applied university.

4. JICA's Selection

- (1) The applicants who applied for the university application must submit the essay about the following theme to the JICA Office in your country within 1 month after the submission of university's application.
 - A) Theme: My Contribution to achievement of the Sendai Framework in my country after the JICA Scholarship Course
 - B) Key questions: You need to include your thoughts to the following questions in the essay
 - What is the most critical issue or challenge to achieve the Sendai Framework in your country?
 - What would you like to learn through this course to solve the issue or challenge mentioned above?
 - How will you utilize your experience and learning from the course after returning to your country?
 - C) Format: Free format by using Microsoft Word or text editor within 800 words
- (2) The result of JICA's selection based on the university's selection and essay evaluation is informed within 1 week after the result notification by the university. The applicant who passes JICA's selection is called as 'candidate'.

5. Final Acceptance Decision by JICA

- (1) Submission of required documents for acceptance decision
In response to passing the JICA selection, each candidate is required to submit the "Required documents" listed in as below **by the end of July 2020** to JICA office in your country in accordance with the appropriate procedure of your country.

Required Documents

- A) JICA Application Form for the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program
 - B) A passport copy (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).
*National ID and birth certificate are acceptable as a draft document if the participant does not have a passport. Certified English translation must be attached if ID is not written in English
 - C) 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy) and another 6 same photos.
 - D) Health certificate with the JICA's specific format
- (2) Announcement of acceptance decision
JICA confirms there are no issues such as diplomacy, health, etc. and makes a final acceptance decision with submitted documents by the middle of August 2020. With this, a candidate will be officially approved as a participant of JICA

Scholarship Course.

6. Administrative Information

Please refer the Attached Document 2 “Handbook for JICA Scholarship Courses” about the general rules and conditions for JICA Scholarship Courses.

Attached Documents

1. Entry format (MS Excel sheet)
2. Handbook for JICA Scholarship Courses

IV. ANNEX:

1. National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) collaborated with International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)

Disaster Management Ph.D. Program **Doctoral course only**

http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/training/phd/phd_index.html

Keywords: Water-related disasters, Disaster risk management policy

Target Groups : Officials and researchers with either natural or cultural/social sciences who are highly motivated to study science-based policy making.

This program is designed for individuals who aspire to master science, technology, and policy studies in water-related risk management, thereby becoming highly skilled professionals who can train other researchers and practitioners and take leadership in planning and implementing practical strategies and policies at national and international levels to contribute to the sustainable development of their countries and regions through disaster risk reduction.

2. Tohoku University Both Master's and Doctoral degrees

(1) Graduate School of Information Sciences (GSIS) - Infrastructure Planning

<https://www.is.tohoku.ac.jp/en/>

① Transportation and Geographic Information Science

Keywords: Traffic Control, Geographic Information Science, Spatial Statistical Analysis

https://www.is.tohoku.ac.jp/en/laboratory/list_dept/c11.html

② Regional and Urban Planning

Keywords: Project evaluation, Urban/regional planning process and policy, Urban/transport planning

https://www.is.tohoku.ac.jp/en/laboratory/list_dept/c12.html

③ Road Transportation and Traffic

Keywords: Transportation planning, Spatial economic systems, Infrastructure, System optimization, Mathematical programming, Equilibrium problems

https://www.is.tohoku.ac.jp/en/laboratory/list_dept/c13.html

(2) Graduate School of Engineering

(3) International Research Institute of Disaster Sciences (IRIDeS)

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/index.html>

① Hazard and Risk Evaluation Research Division

- Tsunami Engineering:

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/organization/risk/02.html>

- Environmental Change Risk

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/organization/risk/03-2.html>

- Remote Sensing and Geo-informatics for Disaster Management

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/organization/risk/04.html>

① Human and Social Response Research Division

- Disaster Area Support

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/organization/humansociety/02.html>

② Regional and Urban Reconstruction Research Division

- Computational Safety Engineering

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/organization/regeneration/03-2.html>

③ Disaster Information Management and Public Collaboration Division

- Disaster Reconstruction design & Management

<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/organization/faculty/infosociety/hirano.html>

Annex 2 Selection schedule

Year	Month	Schedule A		Schedule B		
		Tohoku University, Graduate School of Science	Tohoku University, Graduate School of Information Science, Graduate School of Engineering, International Research Institute of Disaster Sciences (IRIDeS)	GRIPS/ICHARM, Disaster Management Ph.D Program		
2019	Sep	Early	JICA announces the detailed selection information			
		Mid				
		Late				
	Oct	Early	Submission of the completed entry format to JICA HQ by 14th October			
		Mid Late	Matching Process (The result may be informed by 8th November)			
	Nov	Early Mid				
		Late	Submission of the application documents to the University by 29th November			
	Dec	Early Mid				
		Late	Submission of the Essay to JICA Office by 27th December			
	Jan	Early Mid				
Late		Academic examination				
Feb	Early	Notification of the result of academic selection	Deadline to submit the completed entry format to JICA HQ by 10th February			
	Mid	Notification of the result of JICA's selection (based on the Essay) by mid February	Matching Process (The result may be informed by early March)			
	Late					
Mar	Early			Submission of the application documents to the University by early March		
	Mid Late					
Apr	Early			Submission of the Essay to JICA Office by 6th April		
	Mid		Submission of the application documents to the University by mid April			
	Late					
May	Early					
	Mid		Submission of the Essay to JICA Office by 15th May			
	Late			Academic examination		
Jun	Early					
	Mid		Academic examination			
	Late			Notification of the result of academic selection		
Jul	Early		Notification of the result of academic selection	Notification of the result of JICA's selection by early July		
	Mid		Notification of the result of JICA's selection by mid July			
	Late		Submission of required documents for acceptance decision			
Aug	Early					
	Mid		Final Acceptance decision			
	Late					
Sep	Early Mid					
	Late		Arrival at Japan			
Oct	Early		Academy year starts			
	Mid Late					

