

JICA Volunteer in Mongolia



What is the JICA Volunteer Project?

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the only agency implementing official development assistance (ODA) for the government of Japan. To promote social and economic development in developing countries, JICA implements wide-ranging cooperation such as Technical Cooperation, Grant Aid and ODA Loans.

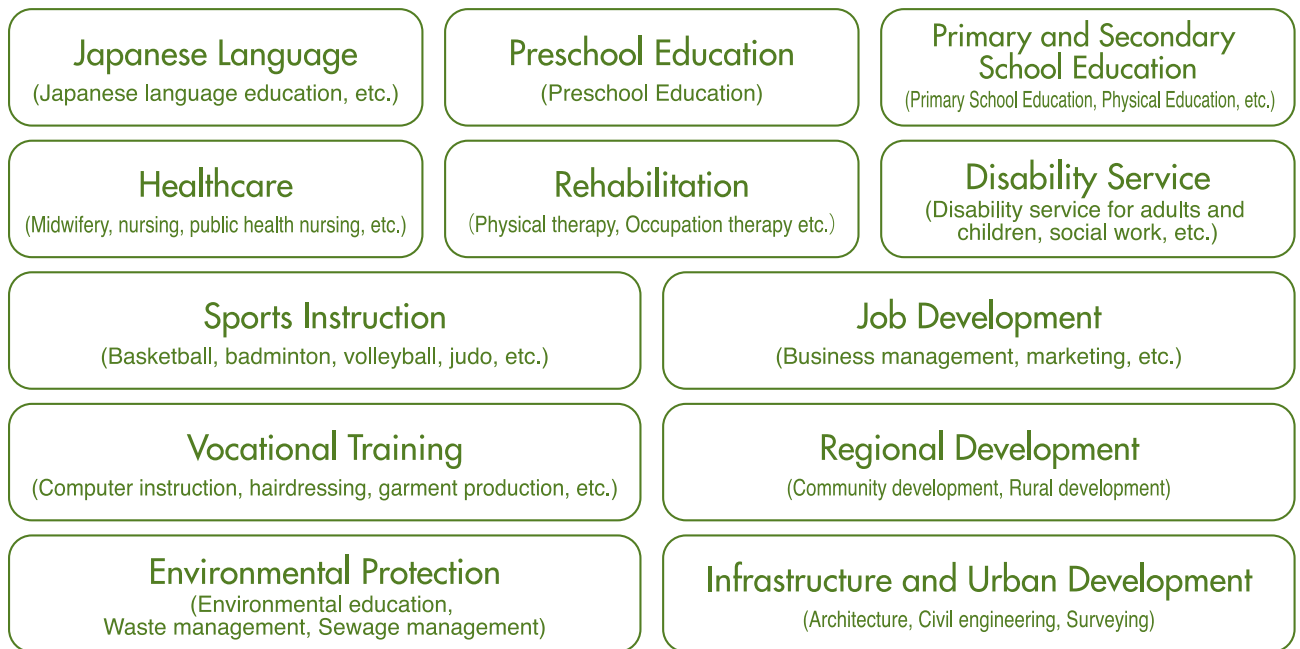
As part of Technical Cooperation, JICA dispatches about 1,500 JICA volunteers, comprised of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV, from age 20 to 39) and Senior Volunteers (SV, from age 40 to 69) to over 80 countries around the world every year. JOCV, who

play the major role among JICA volunteers, are the grass-roots volunteers who encourage the self-help work of the people in developing countries while simultaneously cultivating a spirit of mutual understanding.

JICA volunteers are dispatched based on your requests. Responding to such requests, JICA recruits and selects people, who have the relevant skills, knowledge and experience, and wish to use their skills for the people of Mongolia. After 3 months of training in Japan, they are assigned to your communities to live and work together with you, speaking your language.



Fields of JICA Volunteer Involvement



Nihonmatsu Training Center: one of the training centers where JICA volunteers undergo training before being dispatched



Studying Mongolian



Mongolian textbook

The JICA Volunteer Project in Mongolia

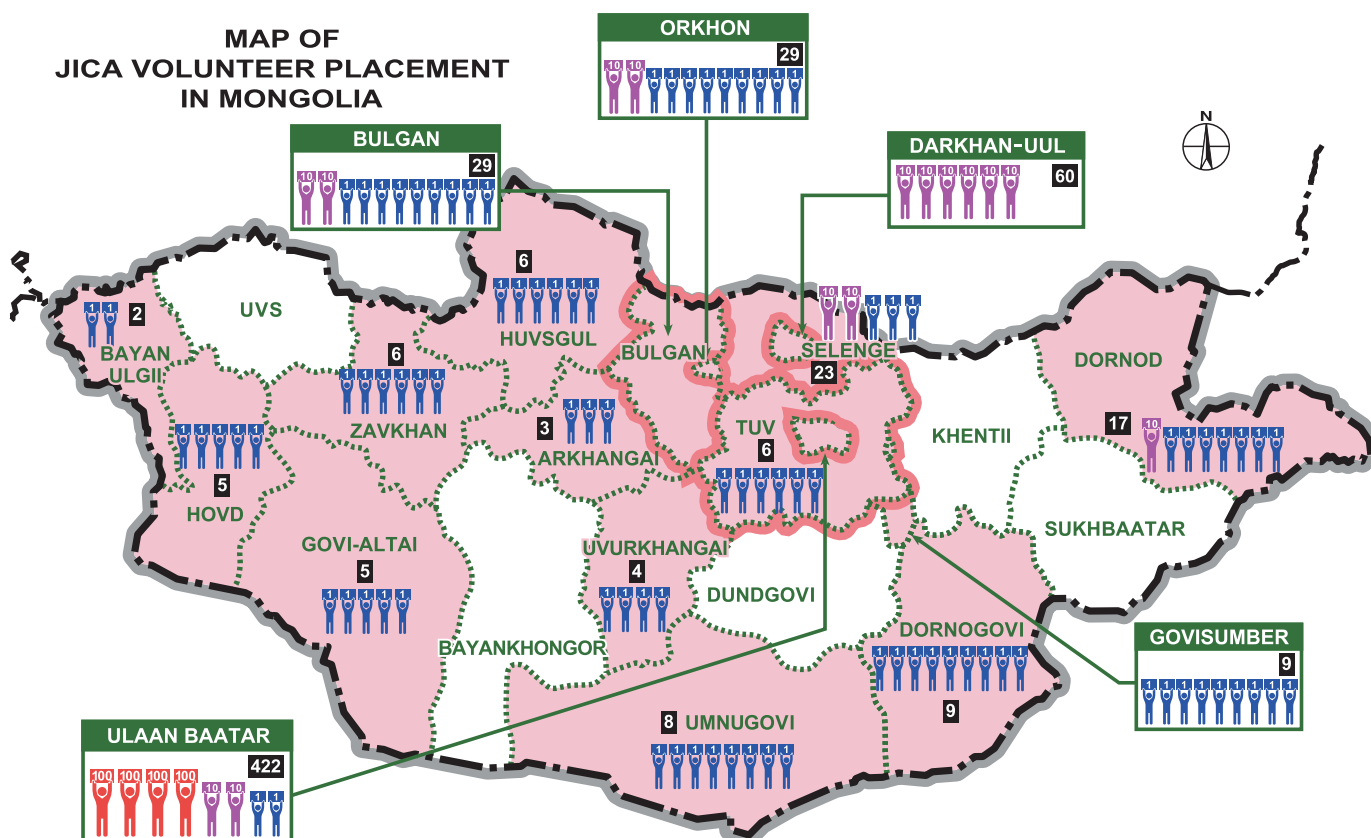
In April 1992, the first two JOCV to Mongolia were dispatched, followed by the first three SV in November 2000. Since then, 643 JICA volunteers (502 JOCV, 138 SV and 3 UNV) have worked in Mongolia as of the end of 2016. They have worked in 16 provinces including the capital of Ulaanbaatar, making the most of

their expertise and experience in many different fields including healthcare, education, disability services and sports, all for developing Mongolia. JICA volunteers also work to deepen mutual friendship and understanding of each other's cultures through their daily lives, activities and interactions with local people.

Number of JICA Volunteers assigned to Mongolia

Year	Fields	Japanese language	Preschool to high school education	Healthcare	Rehabilitation and disability services	Sports and emotional education	Job development and fostering enterprises	Vocational training	Regional development, environmental protection, infrastructure, urban development, others	Total	Grand total
1991-1995		12	0	0	0	3	2	14	4	35	35
1996-2000		17	13	6	0	13	8	27	6	90	125
2001-2005		21	19	7	8	23	33	39	31	181	306
2006-2010		19	37	9	20	23	21	27	19	175	481
2011-2015		4	43	22	17	27	7	15	12	147	628
2016~		0	9	3	1	0	0	0	2	15	643
Total		73	121	47	46	89	71	122	74	643	

MAP OF JICA VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT IN MONGOLIA



Number of JICA Volunteers Assigned to Mongolia (by province) (As of October 2016)

Ulaanbaatar	422	Arkhangai	3	Govisumber	9	Tuv	6	Bayan-Ulgii	2	Bulgan	29
Orkhon	29	Uvurkhangai	4	Zavkhan	6	Dornogovi	9	Huvsgul	6	Umnugovi	8
Darkhan-Uul	60	Govi-Altai	5	Selenge	23	Dornod	17	Hovd	5	Total	643



Ms. Yonezawa giving instructions on breast-feeding (right)

Healthcare

(Midwifery)

Bulgan Province

In the field of healthcare, 44 JOCV have worked in Mongolia by 2015. The healthcare bureau of Bulgan province has received 5 of them, mostly midwives, to improve the environment surrounding expecting and nursing mothers and their infants. However, people in many regions of the province still have insufficient healthcare. JOCV have significant room to contribute to the health of mothers and children in all regions across Mongolia.

Always beside mothers and children

Ms. Yuka Yonezawa

Assigned to: Bulgan Province Healthcare Bureau
Volunteer Term: 2016/01/06 ~ 2018/01/05

I am now working with the general hospital and the family hospital in Bulgan city, and am based at the healthcare bureau of Bulgan province. At the bureau I check the overall health status of mothers and children in the province. At the hospitals I manage the health of expecting mothers, and provide guidance to improve delivery and breastfeeding practices as well as the diets of mothers and infants. People are very cooperative, but at first I was surprised that the work pace was quite slow. I know that the Japanese way is not the only and best solution, so finding ways that best fit the situation in the community is important.

Since junior high school I have wanted to have a job that contributes to improving the health of mothers and children who have insufficient medical care. Therefore, I studied nursing and midwifery at university and worked as a midwife at a hospital in Japan. Bulgan is my first job abroad.

Bulgan province has a huge village that stretches over 200 km from east to west with only one hospital. I have started discussion with concerned officials on how to improve the health of mothers and children in such a region. I would like to work hard and find effective ways applicable to Bulgan and other provinces.



Director,
Healthcare Bureau of Bulgan Province

Ms. S. Narantuya

Ms. Yonezawa, like JOCVs in the past, is very cooperative and responsible. She is an excellent expert as a midwife and provides us with extensive knowledge about obstetric care. She started working at the general hospital and by about 45 days later, she had gathered and taught our midwives how to lower infant mortality rate based on her own observations here. She has already made remarkable achievements here.



Senior Nurse, Obstetrics Ward,
General Hospital of Bulgan City

Ms. D. Enkhtuya

It has been 3 months since Ms. Yonezawa started working as an instructor at this general hospital. Her Mongolian improved quickly; now she can talk about all topics in Mongolian. She is providing us with much useful knowledge about maternity and postnatal care. She is good company, but it's a pity that her term here will be quite short - only 2 years. I would like her to stay here for at least for 3 years.

Education

(Primary School Education)

Darkhan-Uul Province

Education covers a wide range of fields from preschool education to elementary, junior high and high school education. Of all the JOCV dispatched to Mongolia thus far, volunteers in education form one of the largest groups in terms of number. Mongolia is now shifting its center of education from rote memory to valuing children's initiative and creativity. The country is also striving to fill the academic gaps between regions. In this light, there is a great demand for JOCV who have teaching experience in Japan.



Ms. Komura always remembers to make lessons enjoyable (right)

While I teach the children, I learn myself

Ms. Ayaka Komura

Assigned to: Secondary School #1 Darkhan-Uul Province
Volunteer Term: 2015/07/06 ~ 2017/03/20

I work at a public integrated primary-secondary-high school (12-year course). Here I teach mathematics and arts and crafts to children from 1st to 5th grade. In Mongolia, children must learn so much in math class and it is hard for them to follow the lessons. Compared with Japanese schools, I think teachers need greater consideration for the children who have difficulty in catching up. Together with my fellow teachers, I am now seeking how to support such children and improve the school's overall mathematical level, utilizing my experience in Japan.

I am a registered primary school teacher in Shizuoka Prefecture and took a leave to come to Mongolia. The other day, children at the primary school in Aichi Prefecture in Japan and my current working school communicated over the internet. They drew pictures of their dreams and showed and explained about them to each other. It was an inspiring event for both parties.

I applied for JOCV program because I had always wanted to work abroad, and here I am experiencing many things at work and in my daily life; they are all so precious to me. My fellow teachers are very kind and cooperative. When I first arrived, I felt lonely and quite anxious. Nowadays in Japan there are many children from overseas. When I go back to Japan, I will be more empathetic and supportive for such children.



Director
Secondary School #1
Darkhan-Uul Province

Mr. S. Battulga

Ms. Komura is very active in and out of the school. She recently organized a seminar for elementary school teachers in the province. It was a very meaningful opportunity to learn about new teaching methods practiced abroad. As Mongolia is so vast, elementary and secondary education are insufficient in rural areas. The results of the high school entrance examinations show the differences. JOCV would greatly contribute to improving the academic skills of children in such regions.



Deputy Director
Secondary School #1
Darkhan-Uul Province

Ms. L. Bulgan

For the last 33 years I have been involved in education and it is my first time to work with a teacher from abroad. Ms. Komura is very cheerful, so the children opened up to her quickly. Like my colleagues, I am quite inspired by the way she teaches classes and how she makes annual lesson plans. It is also interesting to learn about Japan. As her Mongolian is improving so quickly, I would like her to teach subjects other than math and art in the future.



Ms. Matsumoto instructs a child with disabilities sitting/standing beside Ms. Matsumoto(left)

Disability Service

(Assistance and Education for persons with Disabilities)

Ulaanbaatar City

In Mongolia, the employment rate of people with disabilities is low and they are struggling against home living. The major causes for the low employment rate include insufficient understanding among people on the value of social participation for people with disabilities and insufficient education opportunities from their early childhood. Through collaborating, Japan and Mongolia can do much to support people with disabilities and their families.

Serving to develop capacity of children with disability

Ms. Naoko Matsumoto

Assigned to: Association of Parents
with Differently-abled Children
Volunteer Period: 2016/03/28 ~ 2018/03/28

The Association of Parents with children with disabilities has 18 branch offices nationwide and provides consultation and information service for parents of children with disabilities. It also organizes study meetings and introduces other available services. The Child Development Center, an institution under the Association, has 7 branches in rural areas and 3 in Ulaanbaatar and I work at Bagwaahai Center in Ulaanbaatar. In this center, teams of experts specialized in education and healthcare are working.

If children with disability could at least brush their teeth, or change clothes by themselves, it would help them to become more independent and to make the first step out to the society. Furthermore, if they could acquire some skills to earn income, it would bring great benefit to themselves and to their family. Our mission is to contribute to realization of such social participation by children with disabilities.

It has been 6 months since I arrived here. I am amazed at Mongolian people's vitality and ability to focus. Japanese are good at drawing up plans and meticulously implementing them. I would like to combine the positive traits of both cultures and bring about good results.



Pediatrician, Child Development Center Manager,
Association of Parents with Differently-abled Children

Dr. N. Uugantsetseg

Our association was founded 16 years ago and we work through 18 branch offices. Ms. Matsumoto is the first JOCV to work at the Development Center for Children with Disabilities. She is a teacher in charge of preschool education, the area in which our team needs the most help. In addition, she is an expert of special needs education. Therefore she teaches children while providing guidance and training for the teachers as well. Ms. Matsumoto named this Development Center "Tam-popo (Dandelion)". We welcomed it and we are using the name starting from 2017.



Director, Association of Parents with
Differently-abled Children

Ms. S. Selenge

In this center, Ms. Matsumoto and we are engaged in two activities: education of children with disabilities to develop their capacity, and development of instruction method. Since children who come here have different levels of disability, we need to develop instruction method that suits each one of them. Ms. Matsumoto has experience of education for children with disability and knows well how to make lesson plans, ways to make classes more fun and to make teaching tools with readily available materials, so while we work we can learn, too.

Sports

(Judo)

Hovsgol Province

Judo expert Tsagaanbaatar, the first Olympic gold medalist from Mongolia, once studied under a JOCV (judo volunteer) in his early days. Over the last 20 years, JICA has dispatched eight judo volunteers, both male and female, to Mongolia. They introduced judo techniques and Japanese manners through judo. The judo world in Mongolia has high expectations for the continuing assignment of JOCV, and for the development of human resources among teenagers and judo athletes in the country.



Mr. Morita teaching basic judo (right)

Teaching techniques and manners of judo

Mr. Naoya Morita

Assigned to: Champions Sports School, Huvsgul
Volunteer Term: 2014/10/06 ~ 2016/01/05

I worked as a Judo instructor for 2 years at a sports school in Murun city. I taught 20 students in the morning and 40 in the afternoon. Children in the school were very eager to become stronger and clearly showed such eagerness in the class. To respond to their enthusiasm I taught them many different techniques and practice methods; most of all, I strongly emphasized basic training and good manners throughout my lessons. Some of my students were quite promising as Judo wrestlers, so I am looking forward to their future progress.

It was very cold during the winter in Murun, but indoors it was warm thanks to paal (the floor heating system), and heavy winter clothes saved me when going out. Since there was an eager request, I taught Japanese to some people when I had time to spare. Some of the students eventually went to Japan to study at university. I am very happy to have spent 2 years in Murun, playing my small part in bridging Mongolia and Japan.

I dedicated my whole life to Judo from 2nd grade of primary school until I graduated from university. Judo gave me so much that I wanted to give something back, and applied for JOCV program. To the contrary however, I had so many precious experiences in Mongolia. I am sure they will help me in the future.

General Secretary
Mongolia Judo Association

Mr. M. Bukhbat

To explore hidden talent in rural areas, the Mongolia Judo Association actively promotes the diffusion of judo across the country. In this light, JOCV presence is very meaningful because it provides children in rural areas with opportunities to watch actual judo matches, which they can usually only watch on television. We understand well that it is extremely difficult for JOCV to spend the winter in rural Mongolia. The Mongolia Judo Association, while fully ensuring that the daily needs of JOCV are met, would like to continue to invite judo volunteers to rural areas.



Representative
Mongolia Judo Academy

Mr. G. Bat-Erdene

The Mongolia Judo Academy hopes to make a judo textbook in Mongolian to enable everyone to easily understand judo, even children.

Judo highly respects the basic training of techniques (waza) and good manners. JOCV teach and practice both of them. JOCV training, combined with the textbook, would enable children to deeply understand the spirit of Japan (yawara), according to the Judo phrase: starts with courtesy and ends with courtesy. The spirit of yawara would bring great benefit for the youths of Mongolia.

History of JICA Volunteer in Mongolia

- March 1991** Signing of Agreement on JOCV
- March 1992** JOCV coordinator office opened and the first JOCV coordinator was assigned
- April 1992** The first two JOCV were assigned (Japanese language education)
- February 1995** Placement of JOCV to rural areas started (Erdenet, Volleyball)
- January 1997** JICA Mongolia Office opened
- July 1997** Signing of Memorandum on Senior Volunteer (SV)
- November 2000** The first three SV were assigned
- December 2003** Signing of Agreement on Technical Cooperation
- 2005** Total number of JICA volunteer exceeded 300
- 2015** Total number of JICA volunteer exceeded 600
- March 2017** 25th anniversary for JICA Volunteer in Mongolia



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Mongolia office

Bodi Tower 7th Floor, Sukhbaatar Square 3, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Central P.O.Box 682, Ulaanbaatar 211213, Mongolia)
Tel: +976-325939, 311329 Fax: +976-310845 E-mail: mg_oso_rep@jica.go.jp
<https://www.jica.go.jp/mongolia/office/index.html>

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