

JICA

Okinawa

Profile

Okinawa International Center (OIC)
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JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an agency for Official Development Assistance (ODA) by the government of Japan.

Overseas Offices

Around 100 offices are located worldwide to promote projects in response to local needs.



Offices in Japan

JICA carries out diverse projects via domestic offices throughout Japan in cooperation with various organizations.

OIC is the southernmost of 15 domestic offices.



Okinawa International Center (OIC)

OIC covers Okinawa, one and only prefecture in Japan located at sub-tropical region. The island chain of Okinawa stretches over about one thousand kilometers from Kyushu to Taiwan. Okinawa has an area of approximately 2,281 square kilometers and a population of 1.4 million.

About 500 overseas participants stay at OIC annually for knowledge co-creation programs. ICT courses have been the mainstream since its establishment in 1985. Other courses including public health, environment management, and water supply, are programmed in advantage of Okinawa's subtropical and archipelagic characteristics.

OIC participants also enjoy various exchange programs with local people of full hospitality and have no time to become home-sick.

Aside from knowledge co-creation programs, OIC, through its international cooperation activities, supports Okinawan industries and people to develop in collaboration with local governments and enterprises.



Facilities

OIC is located at Urasoe city, at the border of Naha city (capital of Okinawa Prefecture). It was built on the side of Maeda hill, and is surrounded by the beautiful view of Pacific Ocean and East China Sea.

The Administration Building (Main Building) contains the office of OIC management and seminar rooms.

Nirai Hall is an extension of the Main Building which contains additional seminar rooms, library, and JICA Plaza for public relations.

As lodging facilities for overseas participants, Accommodation Building offers 104 rooms and Welfare Building has dining hall and recreational area.

OIC is equipped with facilities for sports and recreation not only for overseas participants but for the exchange program with local communities. Those are: gymnasium, tennis court, and ground.



In time of large-scale disaster, a part of OIC facilities will be offered as an evacuation center of Urasoe citizen, temporary office for Urasoe police and foreigner-supporting program.

Site area: 33,000 square meter

Building area: 6,128.36 square meter

Floor area: 12,199.32 square meters.

Knowledge Co-Creation Program

OIC invites administrative officials, engineers, researchers and others who are the core of nation-building and development, as participants to Japan for the purpose of Human Resource Development, for solving the problems of developing countries.

Experiences, advanced technology, technology based on corporate culture which is cultivated in Japan greatly contribute to the development in each country.

Utilizing Okinawa's strength

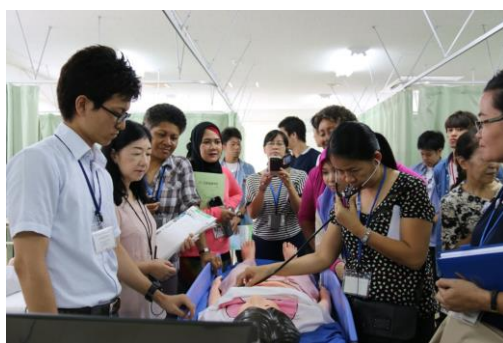
Utilizing Okinawa's strength as Archipelagic Characteristics, Subtropical Climate and Unique History and Culture, OIC carries out various programs. For example, there are programs in the field of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, Fisheries, Coral Reef Environmental Preservation, Health, Information and Communication Technology, Resource & Energy, Environmental Management, Tourism, Education and Transportation for island countries.



*Kayaking experience
in Eco-Tourism course*



*Making Bioremediation System
in Water Environment course*



*Practice at nursing school
in Maternal and Child Health course*



*Intercultural experience class
in Marine Ecosystem course*

Various welfare and international exchange (“Omotenashi”) programs

Extracurricular programs are offered to experience Okinawa’s unique history and culture. Bus tours go to Shuri Castle, Churaumi Aquarium, and places related to peace and ecological studies. There are also classes of Karate (martial arts of Okinawa-origin) and Eisa Dance.

Cooperation with various organizations in Okinawa Prefecture

Programs are implemented with cooperation by various organizations, such as universities, government agencies, research institutes, local governments, NGOs, and private companies in Okinawa.

From countries all over the world to Okinawa

Since its establishment in 1985, OIC has been welcoming more than 500 participants annually from Asia, Oceania, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and other regions. As of March 2016, 11,223 participants from 164 countries benefitted from OIC’s programs.



Eisa dance with local youth



Shuri castle



*Water leak detection practice
in Water Supply Services course*



*Jatropha’s seed investigation
in Biomass course*

Implementing various type of programs

General program is conducted for a short period time (1 to 2 months), but some programs are held over 1 year or more. In the scheme of Long-term Participants, OIC accepts young administrators, engineers, professors and practitioners who are responsible for the future of developing countries to acquire master's and/or doctor's degrees at higher education institutions such as universities in Okinawa. OIC accepts dozens of Long-term Participants from Africa, Oceania, Afghanistan and others.

There is also Nikkei training program aiming at contributing to the development of Latin American countries through training Japanese descendants in Latin America.

OIC also conducts Region-focused and country-focused programs to tackle specific issues in the specific regions and countries for the needs of recipient regions and countries.

Programs for Young Leaders

Young Leaders from developing countries are also invited to Japan. The program aims at nurturing workforces responsible for future nation-building through programs in the fields required in their respective countries. Sessions of workshops are held with Japanese experts, professors, officers, and university students of the same background. It is a good opportunity for Japanese counterparts to deepen mutual understanding.



*Graduation ceremony of Univ. of the Ryukyus
in Long-term Participants course*



*Home stay experience
in Okinawan traditional house*

Think Globally, Act Locally

As the implementing agency for official development assistance of Japan, JICA supports developing countries. However, are problems occurring in the world such as poverty, conflicts, wars, environmental issues and fear for human security abuses only a concern in those parts of the world?

Japanese society and our own lifestyles are deeply connected with and depending on these regions, and same problems also exist in Japan.

For this reason, OIC supports Development Education, in other words, Education is to encourage Japanese people, especially student and teacher to be more interested and more involved in international cooperation activities.

Development Education aims to help people to obtain consciousness of development-caused problems, to think about desired development, and to create world of equality and prosperity.



International Exchange Program with the local population

OIC promotes exchange programs between JICA participants and local communities through games, sports and joining local festivals. The programs deepen mutual understanding between Japan (Okinawa) and developing countries.



Friendship program with local children.



Yukata-clad participants join local festival.

Overseas Volunteers from Okinawa

JICA's volunteer programs support activities by citizens who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development as well as the reconstruction of developing countries.

There are several types of Volunteer Programs.

- Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)
Recruitment campaigns target people between the ages of 20 and 39, with the areas of cooperation spanning 8 sectors and a diverse range of about 120 sub-sectors.
- Senior Volunteers
Recruitment targets people between the ages of 40 and 69 who have a strong desire to participate in cooperative activities in developing countries utilizing their solid experiences and others.
- Youth and Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities
The Nikkei (Japanese Descendant) Communities Volunteer Program, consisting of the Youth and Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities.

Dispatch of volunteers from Okinawa started 1968, totaling 461 junior volunteers and 67 senior volunteers until 2016.



Mathematic Education (Malawi)



Protection of Cultural Properties (Peru)



Vegetable Growing (Nepal)



Nutrition Improvement (Fiji)

JICA Partnership Program

JICA Partnership Program (hereinafter referred to as “JPP”) is one of the technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at the grass-roots level in collaboration with partners in Japan, such as NGOs, universities, local governments and public interest corporations.

Partners in Okinawa may submit a proposal to or consult with OIC on the project they wish to carry out. OIC reviews the proposal through consultation with JICA Headquarter, JICA Overseas Offices.

Various JPP projects are done in Okinawa that makes full use of the strength and uniqueness of subtropical archipelago.



Water Supply Model Project in Samoa implemented by Miyakojima City



Hoi-An City's Solid Waste Minimization Project in Vietnam implemented by Naha City and Okinawa Citizen's Recycling Movement



Okinawa-Cambodia Peace Culture Museum Cooperation implemented by Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum

Partnership with Okinawan Enterprises

In recent years, 70% of the flow of funds from developed countries to developing countries has come from private funds. Private sector activities are vitally important in order to achieve economic growth and sustainable social development. Japan aims to enhance the quality of its ODA by the participation of the private sector and their advanced technologies and knowledge.

JICA makes efforts to promote public-private partnerships focused primarily on cooperation aimed at improving the business environment in developing countries and support infrastructure development and improvement of public services through PPP (Public-Private Partnership) in which government and private sector share responsibilities.

In addition, in March 2012, JICA became a member of the all-Japan support system for overseas business development of SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises), and initiated programs for supporting overseas expansion of SMEs. JICA's wide-ranging support schemes for the partnership with Japanese Private Sector as follows;

- SME Partnership Promotion Survey (For SMEs only)
- Feasibility Survey for the Private Sector for Utilizing Japanese Technologies in ODA Project (For SMEs only)
- Preparatory Survey for BOP Business Promotion
- Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies (For SMEs only)
- Collaboration program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies



Sakima Prosthetics & Orthotics Co.,Ltd.
Product: CB Brace
Country: Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Tomas technical institute Co.,Ltd.
Product: CHIRIMESER
Country: Republic of Indonesia



Progressive Energy Corporation
Product: Tilttable Wind Turbine
Country: Kingdom of Tonga

Updated in July, 2017