

Invitation Program for East Asian Young Researchers (2011)
—Invitation from EAS Member Countries—
Application Guidelines
(Tentative English Version)

April 2011
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

ATTENTION!! Applications submitted directly to JSPS by individual researchers will NOT be accepted.

1. Outline and Background

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) has launched the “Exchange Program for East Asian Young Researchers.” This program supports initiatives by Japanese universities and research institutions to invite young researchers (e.g., master’s and doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers) to Japan from East Asian countries.

At the Second East Asia Summit (EAS), held in January 2007, Mr. Shinzo Abe, then-Prime Minister of Japan, announced a plan to implement a ¥35-billion youth exchange program, inviting about 6,000 young people to Japan mainly from the EAS-member states every year for the next five years. Based on this plan, the Government of Japan has launched the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme.

As a part of the JENESYS Programme, the Exchange Program for East Asian Young Researchers works to create regional cooperation among Asian countries through exchanges of next-generation researchers.

By supporting exchange projects implemented by Japanese universities and research institutions, this program works to establish and expand networks with researchers mainly from Asian countries. It also helps to develop high-caliber human resources and to create a regional science-and-technology community.

JSPS has been commissioned to carry out this program which targets the countries listed below.

Countries Covered

The program is aimed at promoting exchanges with academic research institutions in ASEAN-member countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand). To more effectively conduct exchanges with these countries, Australia, New Zealand and India may also be invited to participate in projects under this program.

2. Fields of Research

All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences are included under this program.

3. Eligibility

3-1. Host Institutions

Japanese universities and research institutes are eligible to be a host institution under this program.

Applications are prepared by the unit conducting the exchange project (e.g., a department of a host institution) and submitted by the president of the institution.

Multiple applications may be submitted from an institution. In such cases, the host institution must prepare a comprehensive system for hosting the young researchers from abroad.

3-2. Organization within Host Institutions

Host institutions are to prepare the following organizational structure:

- President of the institution acts as the **Representative**
- **Head of the unit** is responsible for preparing the application, exchange plan, and conducting fund management, exchanges, and reporting.
- A researcher employed full-time or classified as being employed full-time at the host institution who serves as the **Coordinator** with regard to the exchange plan, implementation and reporting.
- **Host Researchers** who are responsible for accepting and mentoring individual young researchers. They must be affiliated with the host institution or one of the Cooperating Institutions (see 3-3).
- **Administrative Staff** of the host institution who handle the dispatching and inviting of individual researchers and manage the funds commissioned from JSPS.

3-3. Linkage with Other Institutions

- Universities and research institutes in the eligible countries may become **Overseas Partner Institution(s)**. More than one institution may be an Overseas Partner Institution. It is desirable to assign as Overseas Partner Institutions those institutions that already have established a cooperative relationship with the Japanese host institution via an inter-university agreement or other means.
 - In addition to the host institution, other universities or institutions in Japan may participate as **Cooperating Institutions** in the exchange projects.
- Invited young researchers may conduct research at a Cooperating

Institution. In such cases, the host institution shall still be responsible for funding provision.

3-4. Eligibility Requirements for Invited Young Researchers

All the following requirements (1)-(3) must be satisfied.

(1) Nationality

- Principally, invited young researchers are to be a citizen of an ASEAN country (Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippine, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, or Laos). However, researchers who have Indian, Australian or New Zealand nationality may also be included.
- As the objective of this program is to promote exchange with ASEAN countries, more than 70% of the invited young researchers must be of ASEAN nationalities.

(2) Degree Requirement

- Researchers must have received a doctorate degree within six years from the proposed starting date of their research in Japan, or be currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral course.

(3) Affiliation Requirement

- Researchers must be, in principle, affiliated with or enrolled in an institution in one of the eligible countries. Other researchers may be included on the condition that they do not number more than 20% of all the invited young researchers in a project.

3-5. Points to Keep in Mind When Applying

- (1) Individuals who are currently supported under one of JSPS's fellowship programs (i.e., Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad, Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers) or under the RONPAKU Program may neither switch to nor receive support from this program.
- (2) If the Coordinator is or has been within the past 5 years supported under one of JSPS's international exchange programs, and if his/her application for this program is relevant to the results of such past projects, the connection between them must be described in the application.

4. Number of Awards

Approximately 35 projects

5. Contents, Expenses and Term of Project

JSPS consigns the administration of projects to the host institution.

5-1. Total Amount of Funding

Up to ¥10 million per project

The amount to be granted by JSPS will be determined after due consultation with selected institutions based on the implementation plan they submitted.

5-2. Expenses to be Supported (Direct Operational Expenses)

(1) Support for Invited Young Researchers

Covered are the following costs for the invited young researchers to conduct research activities at their host institution:

◆ Roundtrip airfare, ◆ Maintenance allowance in Japan, ◆ Domestic research travel expenses, ◆ Overseas travel insurance, ◆ Cooperation allowance for host researchers

* Host institutions are to prepare a plan for inviting young researchers, to include such details as the number of invitees, period of stays, and allowances, and specify these details in their application. At least 10 young researchers should be supported under each project.

* In principle, the duration of each stay under this program's funding should be at least 14 days. (However, one researcher may not be supported for more than 90 days in total.)

* Allowances for each invited researchers should be calculated in accordance with the regulations separately stated.

(2) Support for other costs

Covered are the following costs incurred in sending a coordinator and/or host researchers from the host institution to an overseas partner or other institutions, as well as other operational costs to invite young researchers:

◆ Roundtrip airfare, ◆ Daily allowance and lodging, ◆ Research support allowance, ◆ Costs to organize seminars and other meetings, ◆ Operational costs to invite young researchers

* Up to 20% of the total project funding can be used to cover the cost of sending Japanese researchers.

5-3. Administrative Costs

Up to 7% of the operational budget may be used to cover administrative costs such as the following: Domestic travel, supplies, and honorariums paid in administering the exchange project.

5-4. Duration of Project Funding

Exchanges funded under this program are to start at the latest on July 31 2011. The invited young researchers must finish their stays in Japan by the end of October 2011.

However, the project period may be extended to the end of December 2011 for such purposes as completing the project report or sending researchers

from Japan to partner institutions to examine the invitation results. In such cases, the total amount of funding will not exceed ¥10 million.

6. Application Procedure

(1) Application

Applications for this program are to be submitted to JSPS by the head of host institution, who acts as the applicant. Applications submitted directly by individual researchers will not be accepted.

(2) Documents

- 1) A cover letter by the head of the host institution (free format)
- 2) A list of applications (one list per institution)
- 3) Application form (an original and 7 copies)
- 4) A CD-R that contains the list of applications, and application form (one CD-R per institution)

(3) Application Deadline

12-18 May, 2011

7. Selection Criteria

(1) Originality

- A clear statement of the host institution's objectives in programmatically inviting young researchers from the counterpart countries under this program.
- The unique and distinctive features of the cooperative relationship between the Japanese host institution and its overseas partner institutions.

(2) System to ensure quality of researchers

- A system put in place by the host institution to ensure that the calibre of young researchers exchanged warrants support through public funding.
- A well-planned system for selecting invited young researchers, which conforms to the program's objectives.

(3) Concreteness and feasibility

- A concrete and highly feasible project proposal.
- A concrete and effective system for supporting young researchers' activities in line with the program objectives.
- Sufficient contact and preparation with counterpart institutions with regard to implementing the exchange plan.

(4) Future execution of the plan

- Contribution by the exchange project to internationalization of research and educational activities in the host institution.
- Ability of the host institution to sustain the exchange with its counterparts in other countries after the project ends.
- Ability of the exchange project to contribute to the development of

high-caliber human resources in Asian countries, and to the building of a science-and-technology community within the Asian region.

- Ability of the exchange project to contribute to creating, strengthening and expanding interpersonal networks between researchers in Japan and East Asian countries.

(5) Management system

- A system for programmatically managing the project established within the host institution.
- Adequate preparation made by the host institution to enable the invited young researchers to smoothly pursue their research work.

8. Selection Process and Notification

Project application screening is conducted through a document review and panel review conducted by JSPS's International Program Committee.

Notification of the selection results is to be made to the head of the applying institution by the end of June 2011.

9. Post-selection Procedures

JSPS notifies the successful institutions of the procedures necessary for implementing the project.

10. Obligation of Host Institution

(1) Progress report

If asked to by JSPS, host institutions are obligated to submit a progress report at the middle of project implementation, and an achievement report upon project conclusion.

(2) Informing JSPS of and Publicizing Research Results

After the invited young researchers complete their stays, host institutions are obliged to inform JSPS of their research results, compiling them in either Japanese or English, and to proactively disseminate them to the public.

JSPS does not get involved in matters of intellectual property resulting from the projects. However, due acknowledgement of JSPS support is to be made in related publications.

(3) Hosting System

Being primarily responsible for the stays of invited young researchers, host institutions should be well prepared to prevent violations of human rights and other abusive acts. They are asked to assist the invited young researchers with required preparations and procedures (e.g., visa application) and to provide them with instructions, advice or cooperation needed to make their stays in Japan smooth.

The host institution should contact host researchers and counterpart

researchers in advance regarding the invited young researchers' research activities in Japan.

Host institutions must be proactive in preventing any act of discrimination, misconduct or misuse. They should also strive to resolve any such problem that may arise.

11. Notes

(1) JSPS bears no responsibility for any injury, sickness or accident incurred during stays or travel related to the projects.

(2) Personal information contained in application materials shall be strictly controlled in accordance with laws to protect personal information held by administrative institutions and JSPS's rule of protect personal information. In using personal information when implementing this program, including its provision to private companies commissioned to conduct data processing,

JSPS shall observe these laws and regulations.

If selected, project data, such as the name of the host institution, cooperating institutions and overseas partner institutions; names and titles of the coordinators, host researchers and administrative staffs; the project plan, implementation reports and evaluation results, will be given public access.

(3) JSPS will require reimbursement of part or all of its funds and impose appropriate penalties in cases of improper practices (e.g. fabrication, falsification, plagiarization), improper acts such as sexual harassment, or misuse of research funds.

Even when such penalties are imposed, the host institution is responsible for implementing the scheduled visit and research plan of the young researchers as long as they wish to continue their stays.

For details, please refer to the attached document "About the Proper Use of Competitive and Other Funds."

(4) JSPS does not support any research project related to military affairs.

(5) Details regarding the handling of funds are prescribed separately.

12. Contact

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