

Scholarship to Japan

JDS Program in Lao P.D.R. (Sub-Program 1-4)

What is JDS?

The Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) was established by the Government of Lao P.D.R. with the assistance of the Government of Japan for FY2000-2001. The objective of JDS is to support human resources development of Lao P.D.R., targeting young government officials, who are expected to be leaders of the country, and to engage in formulating and implementing social and economic development policies after returned. Participants of the JDS Program shall contribute to an expanded and enhanced foundation for bilateral relations with Japan as persons having well-rounded knowledge of Japan.

Field of Study

The framework of the JDS program consists of “**Sub-Program**” and “**Component**”, which correspond to and deal with the selected target priority area and development issues of Lao P.D.R.. The participants of the program are selected from “**Target Organizations**” whose mission is closely related to “sub-program” and “component”. Accepting Japanese university offers educational programs corresponded to the needs. The degree to be obtained is **master’s degree (2 to 2.5 years course)**. The Medium of Instruction is **English**.

Sub-Program (Target Priority Area):	
	Improving Administrative Ability and Institution Building
Component (Development Issues):	
	Improvement of Agricultural Facilities, the Residential Environment, and Livelihoods in Rural Areas, Support for the Politics and Institution Building in the Area of Agricultural and Forest Preservation
Target Organizations:	
	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Managing Organization) Ministry of Industry and Commerce Water Resources and Environment Administration Ministry of Planning and Investment
Accepting University (Number of Scholars) & Degree to be Obtained:	
	Kyushu University (3) -Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences -Master of Science
Background:	
	Rural residents generally do self-sufficient farming. The volume of agricultural production greatly depends on the weather, and access to agricultural technology, market information and microfinance is limited. Moreover, it is difficult for farmers to sell agricultural products because basic infrastructure is underdeveloped. As a result, the income gap between rural residents and urban residents or residents on the plains in the Mekong River Basin is widening. In Laos’ agriculture and forestry administration, their capacities, both in central and local agencies, are insufficient in terms of systems and organization. It cannot be said that administrative services, ranging from effective policy planning adapted realities in Laos to extension activities for rural people, are provided all over the country. In addition, the forest ratio greatly decreased due to slash-and-burn agriculture beyond the sustainable level and excessive or illegal logging. At the same time, because these deterioration and destruction of forests have serious effects on the poor people in the mountainous areas, especially ethnic minority. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce slash-and-burn agriculture and secure an alternative method for improving livelihood. JDS Fellows are expected to acquire the knowledge useful for policymaking and institution building in the context of improving access to farming techniques, market information and microfinance; promoting the sale of agricultural produce; providing agricultural extension services: and conserving forest resources.

Eligible Applicants

Nationality	Citizens of Lao P.D.R.
Age	Between the age of 22 and 39 as of April 1, 2011
Academic Background	Has a bachelor's degree from universities authorized by the Government of Lao P.D.R. or other countries. Basic Mathematics skill is required.
Working Experience	Must be a full-time employee in the target organizations . Required 2 years or more of work experience in the field of " <u>improving the basic facilities and living environment of rural residents</u> ", " <u>Improving the livelihoods of rural residents</u> " or " <u>implementing policies and institution building in the area of agricultural and forest preservation</u> ".
English Proficiency	Have a good command of both written and spoken English. TOEFL score of 500 or higher is preferred.
Ineligibility	Following persons cannot apply for JDS. a. Those who are currently awarded or scheduled to receive another scholarship. b. Those who have already taken a master's degree in a foreign country under any kind of scholarship. c. Those who studied abroad for more than 1 year under any scholarship and returned to Laos during past 2 years d. Military personnel registered on the active list or person on alternative military service.

Selection Process

Application guideline/documents and university information can be downloaded at JDS website.

Application Deadline: September 10, 2010

Applications should be submitted to the department in charge of JDS program at each Target Organization

【Upon Application: Oct 2010】 English Proficiency (TOEFL) and Math Test

【1st Selection: Oct-Nov 2010】 **Screening of Application Documents** by Japanese University

【2nd Selection: Dec 2010】 **Technical Interview** by Japanese Professors & Medical Check-up

【3rd Selection: Jan 2011】 **Comprehensive Interview** by JDS Operating Committee Members*

*O/C consists of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Central Committee for Organization and Personnel, Public Administration and Civil Service Authority, Embassy of Japan in Lao P.D.R. and JICA Laos Office

Benefits of JDS Participants

- One round trip airfare between Vientiane and Narita or Kansai Airports
- Monthly living allowance in Japan
- Tuition at Japanese University
- Other designated allowances

For Further Information

JICE JDS Project Office in Lao P.D.R.

C/O Laos-Japan Human Resource Development Institute,
National University of Laos, Dong Dok Campus, Vientiane
TEL/FAX : 856-21-740926
JDS website : <http://jice.org/e/jds/application/index.htm>



*Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) is an agent of the program under the contract with Ministry of Education