

# Scholarship to Japan

## JDS Program in Lao P.D.R. (Sub-Program 3)

### 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**.

<b>Sub-Program (Target Priority Area):</b>	
	<b>Improving Basic Education</b>
<b>Target Organizations:</b>	
	<b>Ministry of Education</b> (Managing Organization) <b>Teacher Training College, Teacher Training School,</b> <b>Research Institute for Education Sciences</b>
<b>Accepting University (Number of Scholars) &amp; Degree to be Obtained:</b>	
	<b>Osaka University (2)</b> , Graduate School of Human Sciences (Human Development Studies) -Master of Human Sciences
<b>Background:</b>	
	<p>To break away from being regarded as a least-developing country (LDC) by 2020, the Government of Laos has placed priority on improvement of basic education to settle the issue of poverty radically. As a result of this, the net rate of elementary school attendance rose from 77.3% in 2000 to 86.4% in 2006, and the adult literacy rate has been improved. However, the Lao basic education sector still lacks school facilities, textbooks, and teaching materials. In addition, it also has problems, such as poor learning environment, low access to education (especially in rural areas and ethnic minorities), an insufficient number of teachers, poor teaching skills, the existence of unqualified or low-qualified teachers, low salary for teachers, inadequate capacity of the administration and an absolute lack of budget. In terms of the quality of education, although teachers of basic education (elementary and secondary) must graduate from a Teacher Training College (TTC) or Teacher Training School (TTS), education provided at such teacher training institutions has many issues about curriculum, textbooks and teaching materials. In Laos, the idea of school health, whose objectives are to protect the student’s health and prepare a good learning environment, is not common, and so a poor learning environment and health problems such as malnutrition, parasites and Malaria have become some of the obstacles that prevent students from attending schools and decrease motivation for learning. The government does not have sufficient capacity to plan and implement policies to cope with these issues in the education sector.</p> <p>Improving basic education is a priority area for poverty reduction. JDS Fellows are expected to acquire the knowledge useful for policymaking and institution building, particularly with regard to improving the educational environment and access, mitigating factors inhabiting school enrollment, and improving the quality of education.</p>

## Eligible Applicants

<b>Nationality</b>	Citizens of Lao P.D.R.
<b>Age</b>	Between the age of <b>22 and 39</b> as of April 1, 2011
<b>Academic Background</b>	<b>Has a bachelor's degree</b> from universities authorized by the Government of Lao P.D.R. or other countries.
<b>Working Experience</b>	Must be a <b>full-time employee in the target organizations</b> . Required 2 years or more of work experience in duties related to improving basic education (e.g. improving the educational environment and access, mitigating factors inhibiting school enrollment, and improving the quality of education).
<b>English Proficiency</b>	Have a good command of both written and spoken English. TOEFL score of 500 or higher is preferred.
<b>Ineligibility</b>	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

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

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

**【3<sup>rd</sup> 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