

Sub-Program Component	3. International Relations
Accepting University (Number of Scholars)	Waseda University (2) Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies / MA in International Development
Target Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Foreign Affairs ● University of World Economy and Diplomacy ● Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade ● Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education ● Tashkent Institute of Oriental Studies
Purpose of Study:	
<p>Countries in the Central Asian region share the history of some 70 years as a Soviet Union. They face common problems: aging infrastructure and the industrial structure with little diversity deriving from the division-of-labor system in the Soviet era. Although all these countries are oriented toward a market economy and a democratic state, they have been slow in promoting interregional cooperation. This is mainly because they had difficulty in resolving competing interests when it comes to specifics on how to proceed with reforms and coordinate policies.</p> <p>Each Central Asian country has small in population and economic scale. If these countries want to promote trade and other economic relations with other countries, economic integration within the region or a common regional market is essential. The need for regional cooperation is not limited to the economic arena. As a major player and geopolitically important country in Central Asia, Uzbekistan is expected to promote regional cooperation and friendly relations with other Central Asian countries in many sectors, including counterterrorism and counternarcotics, removal of antipersonnel mines, poverty reduction, energy and water resources, and health care.</p> <p>Since gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has been making efforts to move away from the socialist regime of the former Soviet Union. In October 1997, the Uzbek government promulgated the National Human Resource Development Program. The major objectives of this program include fundamental reforms of the education system, the abandonment of old beliefs, and the establishment of a national education system that allows the development of human resources who can manage a transition to a market economy. Special emphasis was placed on the need to accumulate human resources who were essential to promote such a transition. In June 2006, Central Asian countries held the Second Foreign Ministers' Meeting within the framework of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue, which was initiated in 2004. The conference adopted the Action Plan to address issues mentioned above. There are growing expectations that moves toward interregional cooperation will be accelerated with Japan playing a catalytic role. Uzbekistan, which plays the leadership role in these moves from a global standpoint, needs to train policy planners to that end. The JDS Program is expected to play an important role in developing such human resources.</p>	