

Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science
SAKURA Exchange Program in Science



<http://www.ssp.jst.go.jp/EN/>



Japan Science and
Technology Agency

Basic Policy

Purpose of the Program

Asia is undergoing a period of dramatic progress. Promoting science and technology is a key engine to realize a bright future of Asia and it is vitally important to enhance the exchange of Japanese and Asian youths who will play a crucial role in the field of science and technology.

Based on this concept, “Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science” (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science) is the program for enhancing exchanges between Asia and Japan of the youths who will play a crucial role in the future field of science and technology through the close collaboration of industry-academia-government by facilitating short-term visits of competent Asian youths to Japan. This program aims at raising the interest of Asian youths toward the leading Japanese science and technologies at Japanese universities, research institutions and private companies.

Basic Concept for Implementing the Program

(1) Invite approximately 2,000 youths for short-term visits to Japan from the 14 Asian countries and regions specified below *, who will engage in exchange programs with Japanese youths and other activities in the field of science and technology.

Eligible youths must be a student of high school, university or graduate school, a postdoctoral researcher or a teacher, who is under 40 years old, and has never stayed in Japan before basically.

* The People’ s Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People’ s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

(2) The program will be implemented based upon an overall plan which includes estimated number of invited youth from each Asian country or region.

(3) The program will be implemented in close collaboration with authorities concerned of Asian countries and Japan.

(4) The program will be implemented in a manner that will consolidate the foundation of the program such as the registration system of the cooperative organizations. JST will take initiative in the registration of sending organizations which are capable of sending talented youths.

(5) JST will make best efforts to improve the quality of the program so that the invited youths can enjoy a significant experience in Japan. In addition, JST will take follow-up measures such as keeping in contact with the invited youths so that the program may contribute to the development of science and technology in Japan and Asian countries.

Procedure of the Program

(1) Approach to Asian Countries

In implementing this program, JST urges to widely participate Asian competent students by publicizing this program through visits to the Asian countries based on this basic policy. Furthermore, JST assists sending organizations to search for receiving organizations if necessary.

(2) Preparation of an Exchange Plan

Based on the basic policy, the receiving organization in Japan prepares an exchange plan (or plans) in cooperation with the sending organization(s). In preparing an exchange plan, it utilizes the exchange contents provided for in the “Information Providing Program for Exchange and Support in Science and Technology” as described hereunder in appendix*.

If necessary, JST will support the preparation of the exchange plan, including searching for sending or receiving organization, or even matching them.

There are three types of courses in the exchange plan, described as follows:

(A) Science and Technology Exchange Activity Course (referred to as "Course A")

In this course the Asian youths coming to Japan participate in activities such as attending special lectures, visiting research laboratories at the receiving organization (it is available to include activities at another organizations) based on the arrangements made by the receiving organization, including university, research institution and private company. One week is regarded as the standard length of stay.

(B) Collaborative Research Activity Course (referred to as "Course B")

In this course, university or graduate school students and postdoctoral researchers from Asia conduct short-term collaborative research activities with Japanese researchers based on the arrangements made by the receiving organization, including university, research institution and private company.

Three weeks are regarded as the standard length of stay.

(C) Planed Activity Course (referred to as "Course C")

In this course the Asian youths coming to Japan participate in exchange activities such as visiting universities or corporate research laboratories, visiting schools and science museums, participating in scientific experiments and events, based on the arrangements made by the receiving organization.

Eligible organizations for becoming receiving organizations are limited to a local government, a zaidan-houjin (social foundation) or a shadan-houjin (social corporation) that does not conduct any educational activity or research activity in science and technology.

One week is regarded as the standard length of stay.

(3) Application of Exchange Plan

The receiving organization makes application(s) to JST in the fixed format provided after the exchange plan is prepared jointly with the sending organization(s).

(4) Registration of Receiving and Sending Organizations

(a) Before a receiving organization submits its exchange plan to JST, it needs to be registered on the exclusive homepage of the SAKURA Exchange Program in Science as a cooperative organization. Registration may not be approved in some cases where the information contained in the application is insufficient or inadequate.

(b) A registered receiving organization may submit an exchange plan. The sending organization listed in the exchange plan online application submitted to JST by the receiving organization will be registered as a cooperative organization of the SAKURA Exchange Program in Science. Registration may not be approved in some cases where the information contained in the exchange plan is insufficient or inadequate.

If JST finds a certain organization to be adequately qualified to become a sending organization during the process of publicizing this program in the Asian countries, there may be cases where JST will register such organization as a sending organization with its consent.

(c) In cases where appropriate counterparts are not yet identified, it is still possible to register as a cooperative organization. In this case, JST cooperates in finding an appropriate counterpart if necessary.

Registration may not be approved in some cases where the information provided in the application is insufficient or inadequate.

(5) Selection of Exchange Plan

The exchange plans submitted to JST will be screened by the “Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science Committee” (henceforth referred to as the “Committee”). The Committee judges the exchange plans from the viewpoint of whether the proposed exchange plan is appropriate for realizing the basic policy. During the screening process, if it is judged that the plan could achieve better results regarding the basic policy by making necessary amendments, the plan may be re-submitted within a certain period and judged on secondary screening.

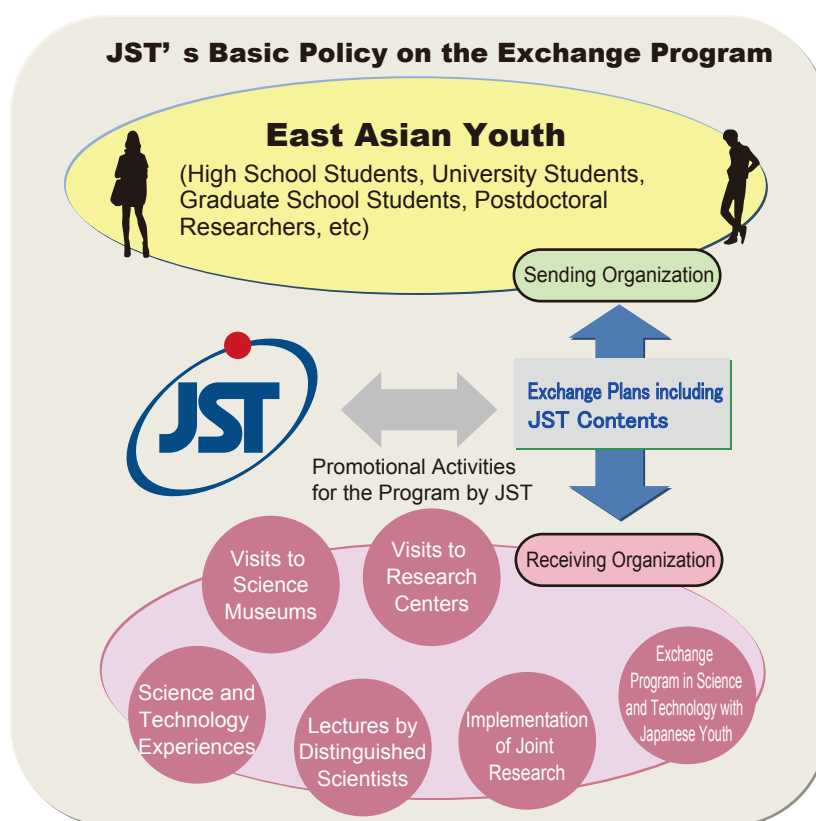
(6) Implementation of Exchange Plan

JST provides the receiving organization with an appropriate fund for the operation cost of the applied plan. If the receiving organization is a private company in the case of the Exchange Program Course A or B, JST provides basically a fund for the invited persons’ overseas travel expenses only. Other expenses must be covered by the receiving organization. If private companies are included as visiting sites in Course C, the expenses related to the visit, including accommodations will be covered in cooperation with the corresponding private companies.

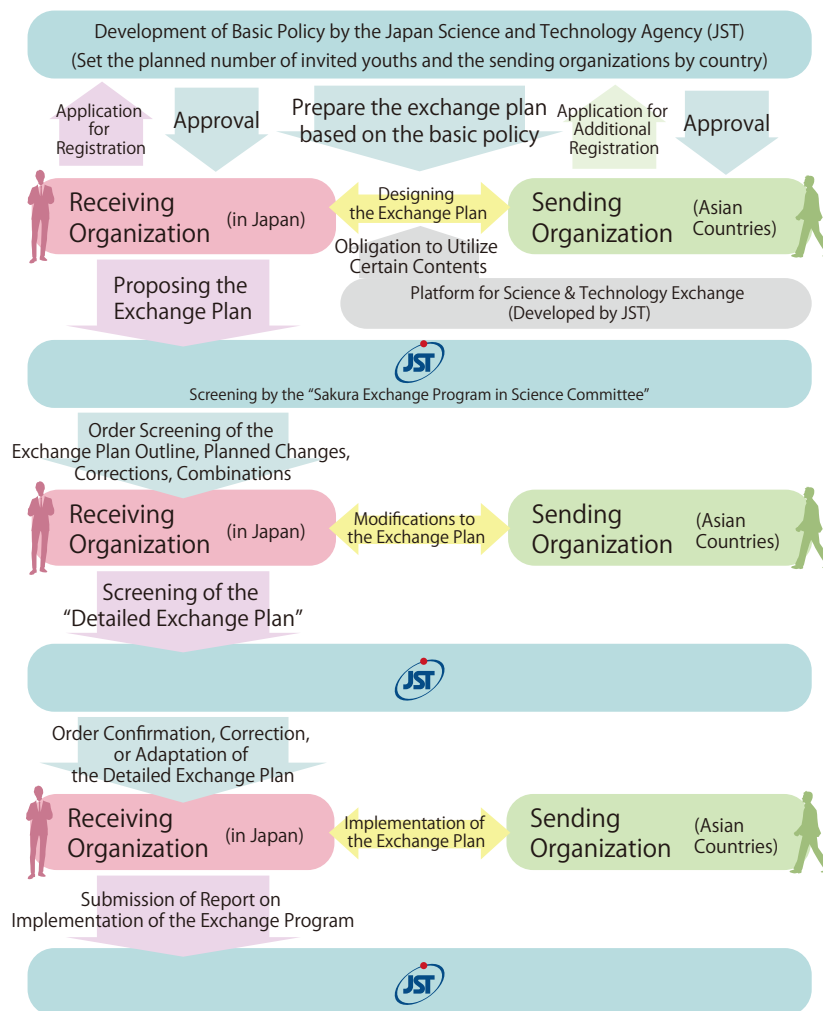
The receiving organization must submit a report detailing the results of the exchange program after its implementation, including a survey from the participants.

(7) Invitation Plan from Asian Countries and Regions

Guidelines about the allocation of the number of invited youth from each Asian country or region in this plan will be established by comprehensively considering such factors as the population, the number of researchers and the number of students and researchers staying in Japan.



Reference: Conceptual Diagram of the Exchange Program



Reference: Flow of Exchange Program

* Appendix:

Information Providing Program for Exchange and Support in Science and Technology (Construction of a Platform for Science and Technology Exchange Contents)

(1) Contents of the Platform

JST collects, organizes and lists useful contents for exchange programs in science and technology which it already possesses such as "advanced measurement technology" , "PRESTO" research laboratories, outline of Super Science High (SSH) Schools, events at Miraikan (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation) and provides these information on the web as "The Platform of Science and Technology Exchange Content" . Contents of the scientific and technical events held by other entities such as incorporated administrative agencies, private companies and local governments, and information concerning showrooms and science museums run by these entities as well are also going to be listed as a part of the platform and these outlines are made publicly available on the web site. JST regularly updates the platform to reflect the latest information.

(2) Utilization of the Platform

Entities which intend to implement exchange programs for science and technology, including the cooperative organizations of the SAKURA Program should browse the information on the platform. If they find any content that they wish to use in their exchange program, they should notify JST of their intention. Subsequently, they should directly approach to the contact point designated by JST and make necessary arrangement with the concerned party to use the content in their exchange program. After arrangement, they should report the status to JST.

JST provides necessary support for those entities that make requests such as suggesting suitable contents for their program or coordinating the date for using a platform content.

(3) Follow-up for Entities Utilizing the Contents Upon Completion of the Exchange Program

The entity that utilized the content to carry out their exchange program must make a report to JST that includes the number of participants from the eligible 14 countries and regions of the SAKURA Program and the results of the surveys from them.

Support for the Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science) from intellectuals in March 2014

We support the “Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science)” which is promoted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

Asia is in a period of dramatic progress where promotion of science and technology will provide a bright future in this region. Thus, it is vitally important for the future of Asia and Japan to enhance the exchange of youths who will play a crucial role in the field of science and technology in future.

The SAKURA Exchange Program in Science scheduled to start from this April, is a program that invites a broad range of youths from Asia such as students from senior high school, university, graduate school, and post-doctors for short-term visits to Japan to enhance relationships with Japanese youth in the field of science and technology.

We have high hopes for this program and are confident that it will produce a huge asset in the future of Asia and Japan.

We encourage and urge the youth from Asia and Japan as well all related institutions and agencies to actively participate in the SAKURA Exchange Program in Science.

Akito Arima	Former Minister of Education, Science, Sports and Culture; former Director General of the Science and Technology Agency; Dean of the Musashi Academy of the Nezu Foundation; Director, China Research and Communication Center, JST
Reiko Kuroda	Professor, Tokyo University of Science; former Vice President of ICSU; 2013 Laureate for L' Oreal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science (Asia-Pacific)
Hiromasa Yonekura	Chairman, Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd; Chairman, KEIDANREN (Japan Business Federation)
Leo Esaki	President, Yokohama College of Pharmacy; 1973 Nobel Laureate in Physics
Susumu Tonegawa	Director, RIKEN Brain Science Institute; 1987 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine
Hideki Shirakawa	Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba; 2000 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
Ryoji Noyori	President, RIKEN (the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research; 2001 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry)
Koichi Tanaka	Fellow, Shimadzu Corporation; 2002 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2002
Makoto Kobayashi	Professor Emeritus, KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization); 2008 Nobel Laureate in Physics
Toshihide Maskawa	Director, Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute for the Origin of Particles and the Universe; 2008 Nobel Laureate in Physics
Osamu Shimomura	Professor Emeritus, Boston University; 2009 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
Akira Suzuki	Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University; 2010 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
Ei-ichi Negishi	Distinguished Professor, Purdue University; 2010 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
Shinya Yamanaka	Professor, Kyoto University; 2012 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine



China Research & Communication Center(CRCC)
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Science Plaza 5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8666 Japan
TEL : +81-3-5214-7556 FAX : +81-3-5214-8445
E-mail: crcc@jst.go.jp
URL: <http://ssp.jst.go.jp/EN/index.html>

Science Portal China : <http://www.spc.jst.go.jp/>
客观日本 : <http://www.keguan.jst.go.jp/>