

“Innovative Asia” Initiative

MOFA
Sep. 2019

~ A New Whole-of-government Policy Package for Circulation of Asia’s Competent Human Resources ~

[Objectives]

- The participants from developing/emerging Asian countries are expected to contribute to promoting industrial innovation through research at Japanese graduate schools with a high level of innovation environment, and working at Japanese companies or Japanese companies located in their countries.
- They are also expected to become the core human resources who will lead the industrial development of their countries contributing to overcoming the challenges of “Middle-income country bonds” that those countries face.
- The project aims to stimulate the circulation of knowledge and human resources in Asia including Japan, to bring about innovation that forms the basis of sustainable economic development, and to strengthen ties between Japan and the respective countries.

This initiative is endorsed in “Japan Revitalization Strategy” approved by the Cabinet on June 2, 2016 and “Growth Strategy” approved on June 9, 2017. Based on those strategies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have implemented “Innovative Asia” since 2017.

1st Component Offering Opportunities for Study and Internship in Japan

Offering opportunities for study and internship in Japan for competent students/graduates from the top level universities (“partner schools”) in Asian developing/emerging countries.

Approximately 1,000 students over the five years (FY2017-FY2021) are expected.

- ◆ Target Countries: 12 (India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Thailand, Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos)
- ◆ Partner Schools: 60 Top-level Universities
- ◆ Fields of Study: Cutting-Edge and Innovative Spheres in Science and Technology (IT, IoT, AI etc.)

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2nd Component Holding Job-Matching Events and Providing Related Information

Effectively providing services, including job fairs and matching projects, to excellent students who wish to have a job with Japanese companies through collaboration between ministries and agencies.

3rd Component Providing Preferential Treatment for Obtaining Visa Status

For students who hope to work in Japan, as long as they are qualified and certified by MOFA, the measures below will be provided.

(1) Bonus Points

Under the project, (i) 5 points will be provided for the participants who completed the training program (more than 1 year), (ii) 10 points will be provided for the graduates of the partner universities including the graduate schools.

*The students from 4 partner schools from Singapore and Brunei are also qualified.

(2) Expediting the administrative procedure

In principle, for the participants who submit the training completion certificate issued by JICA, the submission of documents that prove academic background, work history and other backgrounds is not necessary.