

Cultural Grant Assistance (CGA) Q&A

Question 1 : What types of projects are eligible for CGA?

Japan provides financial assistance for projects in developing countries which aim to preserve cultural heritages or promote culture, higher education, or sports (financial assistance is primarily used for equipment/facility improvement).

Question 2 : What types of projects receive priority?

Projects in developing countries which aim to promote culture, higher education, or sports, or preserve cultural heritages and in addition seek to strengthen relations with Japan will be given priority consideration. Examples of such projects are as follows:

- 1) Projects for the improvement of Japanese language learning equipment such as Language Laboratory, audio-visual equipment in Japanese courses at universities.
- 2) Projects for the improvement of sound and lighting equipment of theatres which frequently hold events introducing Japanese culture or have strong connections to Japanese artist.
- 3) Projects for improvement of audio-visual equipment in museums and art galleries which frequently plan and hold exhibitions related to Japan.
- 4) Projects for the improvement of equipment for restoration or preservation, construction of facilities for research/exhibition for cultural heritages which are the subject of collaborative research involving Japanese researchers.

Question 3 : Are there particular equipment which cannot be provided?

Careful consideration is given to equipment such as air conditioners, crime prevention devices, and power generators which are not directly linked to the promotion of culture and higher education. Ordinary vehicles and office supplies such as furniture, photocopiers, personal computers, printers, typewriters, stationary and copy paper cannot be provided.

Question 4 : What conditions must be met to receive CGA? As a recipient country, are there any points which require care and attention?

- 1) Procurement of equipment or construction of facilities is limited to Japanese procurators (agents or contractors).
- 2) Recipient countries have to prepare the facility for setting up equipment or the land for constructing facilities which are necessary for the implementation of the project.
- 3) Recipient countries have to take responsibility for the proper and effective operation and maintenance of equipment and facilities.
- 4) Recipient countries have to exempt Japanese nationals (consultants, contractors) from customs duties, internal taxes and other fiscal levies which may be imposed in the recipient country with respect to the supply of the equipment or construction of the facilities and services under the grant assistance.

Enquiries to: The Embassy of Japan in the country concerned

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/>

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Photographs courtesy of: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Cultural Grant Assistance of Japan



Japan supports developing countries through financial and technological assistance in order to promote their economic and social development and improve the state of their social welfare. Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) has developed various schemes in order to fulfill its developmental targets.

Cultural Grant Assistance (CGA) is one such scheme which was launched in 1975, to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritages and to promote culture and higher education in developing countries. In addition, it aims to encourage mutual cultural understanding and cultural exchange between Japan and the developing countries.

CGA is a scheme for funding equipment procurement projects including the transportation and installation of the equipment. It also funds the construction and renovation of facilities used for cultural and higher education activities, and is additionally used for the preservation of cultural heritages. CGA is based upon an Exchange of Notes (E/N) between the government of Japan and the government of the recipient country, and is implemented with a Grant Agreement (GA) between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the government of the recipient country.

The equipment and facilities donated by CGA contribute to realizing the various objectives of development in recipient countries, such as the encouragement of Japanese language learning and research at universities, the promotion of Japanese martial arts including Judo, the preservation of cultural heritages, and the promotion of culture and the arts through events at theatres, museums and art galleries.

In this pamphlet, we would like to introduce five typical examples from among those that have been implemented to date under the CGA program.

Project 1. The Sigiriya Museum in Sri Lanka



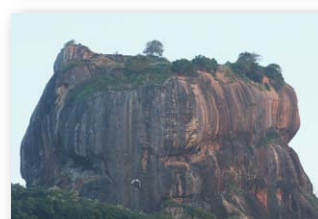
The Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress and palace ruin situated in the central part of Sri Lanka, constructed in the latter half of the 5th century. It is one of seven World Heritage sites in the country, listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and is an important asset which can be a source of pride and a spiritual support for the people of Sri Lanka who have suffered 25 years of continuous civil war.

The Sri Lankan Government set a target to the developing projects in the cultural and tourism sector as an important national policy, and the Japanese Government implemented comprehensive and integrated support in the form of grant aid, technical cooperation, ODA loan, and the dispatch of Japanese Overseas Cooperative Volunteers, in order to promote tourism and research associated with the Sigiriya.

Japan cooperated financially to the project for the procurement of the display equipment in the Sigiriya Museum by CGA, while it provided technical assistance to, for example, the lectures of management of the museum, the making tourism promotion plan, and tour guide training. Japanese overseas cooperative volunteers are also providing support for the promotion of the tourism industry in the surrounding area. In addition, Japan offered ODA loan for upgrading the access road from the main highway to the Sigiriya area and for building facilities such as toilets and a spiral stairway in the Sigiriya Ruins.

The civil war in Sri Lanka just ended in May of 2009. We hope that the Sri Lankan people restore their confidence through this project and recover their national wealth through tourism.

(FY 2007 "The Project for the Improvement of Display Equipment of the Sigiriya Museum")



Project 2. Lao-Japan Budo Center in Laos



In December 2009 Laos hosted to the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) for the first time. Laos didn't possess gymnasiums or martial arts facilities which meet international standards within the country.

Laos and Japan have a long history of exchange through martial arts (Budo). Through JICA since the 1960s, Japanese overseas cooperative volunteers and senior volunteers have continuously been dispatched to Laos to promote Budo. As a result, Laotian judo and karate athletes won medals in the recent SEA games which in turn contributed to building confidence within the country.

The construction of a Budo center was necessary for the SEA Games. In addition Laos determined that the continued promotion of Budo was important for the wholesome development of the country's youth and thus requested financial assistance from Japan in constructing the Budo center. The successful hosting of the SEA Games has been a longstanding desire of Laos.

The site chosen for the construction of the Budo center was located next to the National Stadium in the central part of the Capital city of Vientiane, making it a convenient location for hosting not only Budo, but a variety of other cultural events as well. It is hoped that the building will become one of the Vientiane's landmarks and serve as a source of pride for the Lao people.

(FY 2007, 2008 "The Project for the Construction of Lao-Japan Budo Center")



Project 3. Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia



The Japanese Language Department of the Institute of Foreign Languages at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia has language laboratory equipment provided through CGA. The students studying here will be directly involved in international exchanges between Cambodia and Japan in the future and this kind of human resource development is very important to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. The instructors are Japanese language specialists who have been dispatched with funds made available by the Japan Foundation, and the students are concentrating on their studies with all due seriousness.



It is often difficult for developing countries to secure budget necessary to provide equipment for language studies, and Japan's CGA provides assistance in the cultural and higher education fields where domestic budget allocation is limited. Not only providing equipment, Japanese teachers are also being dispatched, which makes a synergistic effect to the assistance.

The young students are the future of Cambodia. It is hoped that the CGA projects will provide effective learning opportunities at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and help to develop the country's human resources.

(FY 2002, "The Supply of Language Laboratory Equipment to the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Royal University of Phnom Penh")

Project 4. Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory in Armenia



Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory located in the Armenian capital of Yerevan produces a number of internationally renowned musicians and also plays a central role in music education in the country with its high level education in music. In Armenia music is a very important part of people's lives. The music played by performers who have been trained at the conservatory nourishes the self-respect of the Armenian people. Armenia has a strong affinity towards Japan and is a country making progress with reforms aimed at democratization and the creation of a market economy. Japan has aided in the development of a plan for improving musical instruments to be used by students of this State Conservatory. It is hoped that mutual exchange will be further developed in the future through activities such as events which introduce Japanese music and culture.

(FY 2008 "The Project for the Improvement of Musical Instruments of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory")

Project 5. The National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco



The National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco boasts the largest collection of books in the country. As well as playing an important role in the preservation of documents with high cultural heritage value, the library has become a national landmark as a complex facility which also possesses a performing arts venue that acts as a base for cultural dissemination. Japan provided support to a project that worked to improve the audio-visual library equipment and the sound and lighting in the library's performance hall.

(FY 2007 "The Project for the Improvement of Sound, Lighting and Audio-Visual Equipment of the National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco")