



JDS Application Guidelines



The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship in Timor-Leste 2025



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I. Application Guidelines

1. About JDS Scholarship

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (**JDS**) was launched by the Government of Timor-Leste with the assistance of the Government of Japan in 2018.



JDS is funded by the Government of Japan through its ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget.



JDS targets young government officials who are expected to play a leadership role in the development of their countries.



JDS provides scholarships to Timor-Leste government officers to study at two-year Master Degree courses (instructed in English) of Japanese universities.

Objectives of JDS

■ To support for Human Resource Development

JDS's objective is to strengthen the government's administrative capacities in Timor-Leste through providing the opportunity to obtain the Master's degree to the young capable government administrators who are expected to engage in formulating and implementing social and economic development plans and to play a leadership role in the development of the country.

■ To Enhance Bilateral Relationships

JDS Fellows are expected to solidify foundations to further bilateral relations with Japan by utilizing their human network developed through academic and social activities while in Japan.

Beneficiaries of JDS

■ For the participants (JDS Fellows)

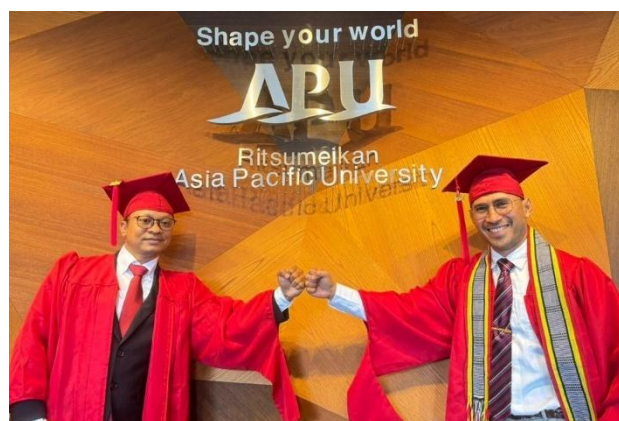
JDS Fellows will acquire expertise to use for policy making and institutional building for the development of their country, and also build human network in and out of Japan through the two-year study in Japan.

■ For the organizations (The Fellows' workplace)

The Fellows' workplace will attain highly capable and motivated returnees (JDS Fellows) who can effectively contribute to the organizational missions.

■ For the Country (The Fellows' country)

The Fellows' country will improve institutional capability of the target organizations which leads to foster country's development.

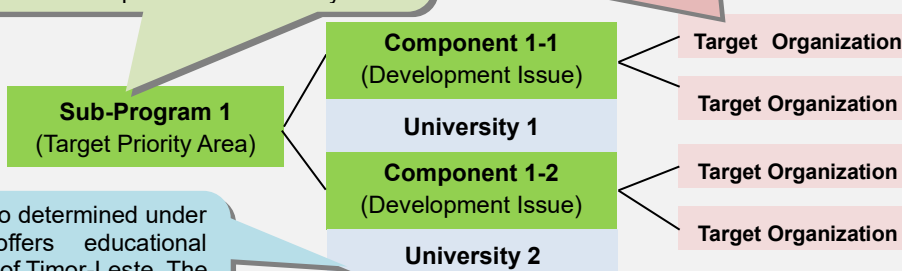


2. System of JDS Timor-Leste

The framework of the JDS Project under the "New System" was made applicable to Timor-Leste in 2018. The new approach gives its importance on "**selection and concentration**" on the target priority issues to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the program. A single program (One phase) is designed to accept four batches of Fellows (Fellows in each fiscal year constitute one batch).

The new JDS Project consists of the sectors called "**Sub-Program**" and "**Component**", which correspond to and deal with the selected target priority areas and the relevant development issues, which were confirmed as indispensable to the economic and social development of the country.

The Fellows of the JDS Project are selected from the "**Target Organizations**" whose mission is closely related to the target priority areas (Sub-Program) and the relevant development issues (Component).



Accepting universities are also determined under each Component, which offers educational programs relevant to the needs of Timor-Leste. The degree to be pursued is **master's degree (2 years course)**, and the medium of instruction is **English**.

For further details

P.9 Framework of JDS Timor-Leste
P.10 Information on each Component

3. Applicant Eligibility

Nationality	Citizens of Timor-Leste
Age	Between 22 and 45 years old as of April 1st, 2026
Academic Background	Bachelor's degree holder Other requirements of academic background Some accepting universities have other requirements or desirable academic background.
Occupation	<p><Civil Servants: All Components></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently working as a full-time Permanent employee at any Ministry mentioned in LAW No. 5/2009 APPROVES THE STATUE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE (First amendment to Law 8/2004) and National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB) Having at least 2 years of work experience as a full-time Permanent employee <p>Note: As is mentioned in Civil Service Commission Manual, Permanent Civil Servants are eligible to apply for scholarships after completing 2 years of work experience.</p> <p><Public Institutions (I.P., E.P.) Applicable only for Component 2-1, 3-1></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently working as a full-time Permanent employee at one of the following institutions: Administration of Airports and Air Navigation (ANATL), Port Authority (APORTIL) Civil Aviation Authority (AACTL), Institute Geosciences Timor-Leste (IGTL) Timor Gap, Bee Timor-Leste (BTL), Electricidade de Timor-Leste (EDTL) Having at least 2 years of work experience as a full-time employee <p>Note: Part-time jobs and volunteer activities are not counted as work experience.</p>
English Proficiency	Have a good command of both written and spoken English. TOEFL ITP 500/IELTS 5.5 or higher is preferable (not required)
Performance Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants are required to submit a copy of the evaluation performance in 2023 and 2024. Those who obtained the evaluation "Very Good" or "Good" for consecutive 2 years in 2023 and 2024 are eligible to apply.
Health Condition	Mentally and physically in good health. Note: All applicants need to take, and pass required medical check-ups arranged by JDS Project Office prior to Comprehensive Interview. Those who cannot undergo the medical examinations and fulfill all the medical requirements will be disqualified from JDS scholarship.
Ineligibility	<p>A person who corresponds to the followings is not eligible to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who are currently receiving (or is scheduled to receive) another scholarship (including other scholarships of Japan). Those who have obtained a master's or higher degrees overseas under the support of foreign scholarship. Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list, and also personnel on temporary leave from the active list.

4. JDS Operating Committee (OC)

JDS Operating Committee (OC) is the decision-making committee of JDS Project. It consists of both members of Timor-Leste and Japanese governments. The OC not only sets the framework and selection policies but also evaluates candidates in final selection.

JDS Operating Committee (OC) Timor-Leste



Government of Timor-Leste

National Institute of Public Administration (INAP)
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture (MESCC)
Civil Service Commission (CSC)
Human Capital Development Fund (FDCH)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MNEC)



JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center)

JICE supports a smooth implementation of JDS project, which covers a wide range of services such as arrangements of recruitment and selection, and assistances for JDS Fellows studying in Japan.



Government of Japan

Embassy of Japan in Timor-Leste (EOJ)
JICA Timor-Leste Office (JICA)

5. Selection Process

Schedule	Steps	Description
Aug 25, – Oct 31, 2025	Application ▼	Deadline: 5:00pm on October 31st (Fri), 2025
November, 2025	Academic aptitude test ▼	English and Math tests. The test results will be used as references by the universities in later selection stages. English and Math test preparation seminar will be provided before.
December, 2025	1st Selection ▼	Document Screening: Application Documents and research plan will be examined by the Japanese universities.
January, 2026	Health Checkup ▼	Health Checkup will be arranged at a hospital in Dili. Note: Those who cannot undergo the medical examinations and fulfill all the medical requirements will be disqualified from JDS scholarship.
February, 2026	2nd Selection ▼	Technical Interview: Faculty members of the Japanese Universities will visit to Dili to conduct their interview exams.
March, 2026	3rd Selection ▼	Comprehensive Interview: The Operating Committee members will conduct the interview exams.
March, 2026	Approval by the OC	Successful candidates will be approved and notified.
April - June, 2026	Application Procedure	JICE will support application for each university.
April - July, 2026	Pre departure training / Orientation	English, Mathematics and Japanese Training and Orientation will be provided by JICA and JICE.
August, 2026	Departure for Japan	JICE will arrange air-ticket, visa, and also support after the arrival in Japan.

<Important Notes>

- ✓ All the selection costs will be covered by JDS project.
- ✓ Limited transportation and accommodation allowance will be provided to candidates coming from provincial areas for the selections.
- ✓ Application Documents will not be returned (Please keep a copy of your documents for yourself).
- ✓ Application Documents with false statements or plagiarism will be immediately disqualified.
- ✓ A result of each selection will be announced to all candidates by email.
- ✓ Failure to participate each selection, interview and test will cause to automatic disqualification from selection process.
- ✓ Candidates who cannot take all the health checkup items at the JDS selection, will be disqualified for Comprehensive interview.
- ✓ Each successful candidate will be requested to sign and submit 'JDS Pledge' to comply with the conditions and rules as scholarship fellows under the JDS Project.



English & Math test



1st Selection
Document Screening



2nd Selection
Technical Interview



3rd Selection
Comprehensive Interview

6. Selection Criteria

Selection process	Criteria	Intent and Purpose
1st Selection Document Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic records and background Possibility of future contribution by utilizing acquired knowledge Contents of Research Plan Relevance between Research Plan and Sub-Program / Component (Development issues set by JDS) Reference Letter (Annex in the Application Document) 	The Japanese universities evaluate applicants' basic knowledge, ability and academic background. Compatibility to the university course will be also examined.
2nd Selection Technical Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic background and learning ability Capacity for completing the study in Japan Possibility of contributing to the development of the country Compatibility to the university course 	The universities mainly evaluate <u>academic knowledge, candidates' idea about research plan</u> , etc. Communication and logical thinking skills are also checked through the interview.
3rd Selection Comprehensive Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity for completing the study in Japan Capacity to utilize outcomes of the study over the long term Possibility of contributing to the development of the country and strengthening bilateral relations with Japan 	After the universities check the candidates' academic abilities, the Operating Committee evaluates the <u>candidates' capacity of future contribution to the development of the country and strengthening bilateral relations with Japan</u> such as purpose of study in Japan, career plan after the study, etc.

* The English and math test results will be reviewed by the universities in the selection stages.

7. Award Benefits

The awards are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic program specified by JDS project. The following benefits generally apply:

- Full tuition fees
- Air fare
- Arrival allowance
- Accommodation allowance
- Monthly Scholarship
- Book allowance
- Travel and seminar attendance allowance
- Overseas travel insurance
- Supports from the agent
 - Finding accommodation
 - Initial settlement of your life in Japan
 - Emergency situation etc.



8. Important JDS Rules

JDS has specific rules in order to realize its project goals and to ensure favorable study environment for the Fellows.

Before departure

- JDS Fellows must submit a JDS pledge to the Operating Committee to commit themselves to follow JDS Rules.

During the stay in Japan

- It is recommended to bring their family members to Japan only after 3 months from the date of arrival in Japan and after the date of admission.
- The Fellows are prohibited from
 - Working
 - Driving motor vehicles, and
 - Applying for further studies such as a doctoral course in Japan
- The Fellows must complete the study within the predetermined period of study, and return to his/her country immediately after the study completion.

After returning to home country

- The Fellows must attend a report back meeting held by the Operating Committee.
- The Fellows are obliged to return and work within Timor-Leste at least for 4 (four) years in Target organization in compliance with the Act of Pledge required by National Institute of Public Administration (INAP).

*Further details will be explained in an orientation conducted after the selection.

II. How to Succeed in Application

1. Application Documents

All applicants are required to submit a set of necessary documents. Please follow the instructions below.

1) Application Documents

- Application Form (AF) and other designated forms can be downloaded from JDS website:
<http://jds-scholarship.org/>

2) Precautions

- To prepare for the documents, please mind 3 types of documents. (Original / Attested Original / Photocopy of the original)
- All documents written in other language than English need official English translation. (Self-translation is not acceptable.)
- Use only A4 size paper for all copy sets. Copy in Black & white is acceptable.
- Do not staple the documents. Put a paperclip on them instead.
- Submit "Reason Letter" in case where wrong information (e.g., wrong spelling of name, birthday, etc.) is contained in the ID and official documents due to administrative errors.
- Make your own extra copy of the Application Documents before submission.

3) List of Application Documents ***Please DO NOT staple!**

Doc No.	Application Documents	Required number to be submitted			Remarks
		Original	Attested Original	Photocopy of the (attested) original	
0	Checklist of Application Document	1			This list is enclosed in the Application Form (AF).
1	Application Form (AF)	1			With your signature in a lower right-hand corner of each page.
2	Research Plan	1			With your signature in a lower right-hand corner of each page.
3	University Diploma / Certificate of Degree		1		Please get the attested document from Ministry of Education. If the documents are not written in English, <u>official English translation by INL must be attached.</u>
4	Academic Record of University		1		
5	Reference Letter "Annex" <Prescribed form>	1			The letter should be issued by Director of your workplace. (This letter must be written in English, and submitted in a sealed envelope)
6	Employment Certificate <Prescribed form>	1			This certificate must be authorized by Director General (D.G) of your belonging department.
7	Personal Identification document			1	Valid Passport or Kartaun Eleitoral (Electoral Card)
8	Termo de Posse or Contract			1	This document will be used to confirm if the person is a Permanent civil servant / staff or permanent staff of IP/EP
9	Letter from Civil Service Commission (CSC) or Ministry of Justice	1			"Declaração livre da instauração do processo disciplinar e pena aplicada pela comissão da função publica" or "Criminal record". ✖The letter must be issued after September 2025.
10	Performance Evaluation			1	Please submit 1 copy of each letter issued in 2023 & 2024.
11	Questionnaire "Health" <Prescribed form>	1			The form is enclosed in AF.
12	Color Photo (4cm x 3cm)	3			Write your name on the back of each photo.

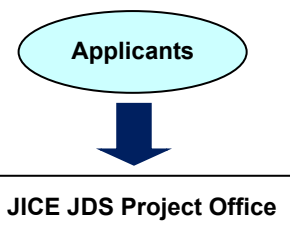
4) Submission of Application Documents

■ Important Notice

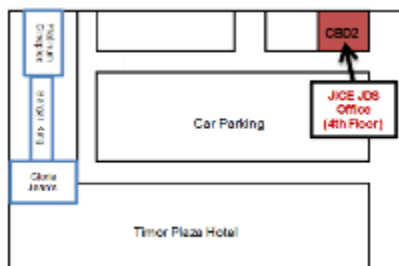
- Application lacking necessary documents will not be accepted.
- Application after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Application will be disqualified in case false statements or plagiarism is found.
- Application Documents will not be returned for any reasons.

■ Deadline for Application Submission

Deadline for Application 5:00 pm on 31st October (Fri), 2025



JICE JDS Project Office recommends submitting the Application Documents a week earlier than the deadline for application. Because JICE can advise on the arrangement of the documents, and the applicants also have time to revise or correct it. The office will be crowded with applicants from 3 days before the deadline.



JICE JDS Project Office in Timor-Leste

No. 409 in CBD2 of Timor Plaza, Dili, Timor-Leste

TEL: 7740-3881 / Email: jds.timor-leste1@jice.org

Office Hour: 8:30 - 12:00 / 13:30 - 17:00, Monday to Friday



2. FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Program

Q1. What is the Sub-Program (SP) and Component (CP)?

They are the fields of study determined according to the priority development issues of Timor-Leste. JDS Fellows are expected to prepare the research plan in line with the stated issues. You are encouraged to study in advance the Sub-Program/ Component under which you apply for JDS.

Q2. Is JDS a full scholarship?

YES. All the costs to study in Japan will be fully covered by JDS. For further details, please refer to "Award Benefits" in this booklet.

Q3. Can I apply for any university/course in Japan?

NO. The component and university are determined according to the priority development issues of each JDS recipient country. You can select the component/university from the framework.

Q4. Can I extend my stay after the completion of a program?

NO. Every JDS Fellow MUST return to their country by the designated date after graduation in compliance with the pledges required by the JDS Operating Committee. JDS Fellows have an obligation to return to the belonging organization and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country with acquired knowledge and skills.

Eligibility

Q5. I am working for a private company, but I have work experience at a government office. Am I eligible?

NO. The requirements are "Currently employed in the Target Organizations as a full-time employee."

Q6. I don't have two years of work experience at the current workplace. Can I count my previous work experience?

YES. You can summate all the experience periods among different Target Organizations. But please kindly note that it should be the experiences in the target organizations.

Q7. I have already received a scholarship from another country. Am I eligible to apply for JDS?

NO. The following persons are NOT eligible to apply for JDS.

- Persons who are currently receiving or is scheduled to receive other scholarship.
- Persons who had already obtained master's degree in other countries under any scholarship.

(*) However, persons who are studying in master's course or obtained master's degree without foreign assistance in local/foreign universities are eligible.

Application

Q8. Where can I get the Application Form?

Please access JDS website.

<http://jds-scholarship.org/>

Application Form (AF), Application Guidelines (AG) and university information can be downloaded from this website.

Q9. Can I apply for two components (universities)?

NO. You cannot apply for more than one component. Please select one component which is relevant to your work responsibility.

Q10. Should I submit all the application documents by the deadline?

YES. But in case you cannot submit some of the documents due to unavoidable reasons, please inform JICE in advance and submit the letter of reason with your signature.

Selection

Q11. Do I need to take the English test?

YES. Basically, every applicant must take the English examination. However, applicants who have valid IELTS score will be exempted from the English test. If you don't have a valid score, JICE will arrange the English exam.

Q12. Is the Math test required?

YES. The Math test is required for all applicants. JICE will arrange the Math test.

Q13. Do I need to come to Dili for the interview?

YES. For the applicants from outside Dili JICE will provide a transportation subsidy.



III. Sub-Program (SP) / Component (CP)



1. Framework of JDS Timor-Leste

Sub-Program (JDS Priority Areas)	Component (Development Issues)	Slot	Accepting University	Degree
1. Improving Administrative Ability and Institution Building	1-1 Improvement of Public Administration and Legal System	2	<u>Hiroshima University</u> (1) Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (2) Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	(1) ① Master of Philosophy ② Master of Economics ③ Master of Business Administration ④ Master of International Cooperation Studies (2) Master of Philosophy
	1-2 Improvement of Service Delivery	2	<u>International University of Japan</u> Graduate School of International Relations	Master of Arts in Economics Master of International Development
2. Promotion of Industrial Policy		1	<u>Gifu University</u> Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology	Master of Engineering
3. Promotion of Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management		2	<u>Hiroshima University</u> (1) Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering (2) Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	(1) ① Master of Engineering ② Master of Philosophy ③ Master of International Cooperation Studies (2) Master of Philosophy

Target Organizations



- Permanent Civil Servants from All Ministries
- Permanent Teaching Staff from National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB)
- Permanent Staff from ANATL, APORTIL, AACTL, IGTL, Timor Gap, BTL, and EDTL (Applicable only for CP2 or CP3)

2. Information on Each Component

Sub-Program	1. Improving Administrative Ability and Institution Building
Component (CP)	1-1. Improvement of Public Administration and Legal System
Accepting University (Number of scholars)	<p>Hiroshima University (National) (Slot: 2)</p> <p>(1) Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences</p> <p>Degree: Master of Philosophy Master of Economics Master of Business Administration Master of International Cooperation Studies</p> <p>(2) Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society</p> <p>Degree: Master of Philosophy</p>  
Target Group of Civil Servants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Permanent Civil Servants from All Ministries ■ Permanent Teaching Staff from National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB)
Expected Research Field	Public Policy Effectiveness Analysis, Administrative Reform, Public Financial Management (PFM), Public Policy Planning, Legal System Development, Decentralization, etc.
Background of component	<p>Many ministries and agencies of the government of Timor-Leste depend on assistance from foreign advisers and donors and cannot adequately perform a series of planning and policymaking functions themselves, such as identifying and organizing issues, discussing policies, and formulating and implementing policies. Although the government formulated the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030, it cannot achieve this plan or run the country in a consistent manner unless the Timorese people themselves think and act to achieve the plan.</p> <p>On the fiscal front, 80 to 90 percent of the country's annual expenditure is accounted for by revenue from oil production, but its reserves are on the decrease after peaking in 2015 due to lower oil production and prices. Establishing the Fiscal Reform Commission, the government has started to work on increasing revenue by reinforcing the capabilities of tax offices and considering the introduction of value-added tax because improving fiscal management is a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Furthermore, the government does not have enough legal experts. Although the government has been enacting basic laws with the help of foreign countries and UN organizations, the imported legal systems do not fully consider the country's reality. The government has a pressing need to increase the number of staff who can draft laws because some donors only delivered drafts instead of helping the Timorese draft laws. While many Timorese people do not speak Portuguese, one of the country's official languages, it is important to have in place laws that considers the country's reality and legal systems, including legal experts.</p> <p>The JDS is expected to improve the abilities of government officials who can formulate policies on public property management, establishment of legal systems, and international relations.</p>

Sub-Program	1. Improving Administrative Ability and Institution Building	
Component (CP)	1-2. Improvement of Service Delivery	
Accepting University (Number of scholars)	International University of Japan (Slot: 2) Graduate School of International Relations Degree: Master of Arts in Economics Master of International Development	
Target Group of Civil Servants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Permanent Civil Servants from All Ministries ■ Permanent Teaching Staff from National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB) 	
Expected Research Field	Policy Making for Improving the Quality of Public Services (All kinds of Public Service)	
Background of Component	<p>It is important to improve and expand the delivery of social services that benefit every Timorese person to achieve the development goals of the SDP 2011-2030 as well as increase the national vitality with a view to equal economic exchanges with the members of the ASEAN, which Timor-Leste wants to join.</p> <p>The government aims to improve its delivery of social services in the fields of public health, education, public hygiene, and public safety, but is falling further behind ASEAN countries in the achievement of the SDGs. Essential public services are not fully available to people, particularly in rural areas. It is therefore necessary to plan the development of human resources that can analyze the actual situation of administrative services, plan administrative services, and provide public services, and to formulate a master plan that will bring overall progress gradually.</p> <p>The Japanese government has assisted in the improvement and expansion of social service delivery as one of the priority areas for assistance with the goal of “assisting in the process of establishing the foundation for the sustainable development of the country in alignment with the SDP as well as SDGs and from the perspective of ensuring stability, prosperity, and human security in the Southeast Asia region.” This project comprises part of such assistance. Assistance already provided by Japan includes technical cooperation in water supply improvement and grass-roots assistance in service improvement, such as grass-roots technical cooperation projects and Japanese Overseas Corporation Volunteers.</p> <p>The JDS is expected to improve the abilities of government officials who can formulate policies to improve and expand public services.</p>	

Sub-Program	2. Promotion of Industrial Policy	
Component (CP)		
Accepting University (Number of scholars)	Gifu University (Slot: 1) Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology NOTE: Possess a Bachelor Degree in Engineering is preferred Degree: Master of Engineering	
Target Group of Civil Servants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Permanent Civil Servants from All Ministries ■ Permanent Teaching Staff from National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB) ■ Permanent Staff from ANATL, APORTIL, AACTL, IGTL, Timor Gap, BTL, and EDTL 	
Background of Component	<p>After 20 years from its independence in 2002, Timor-Leste now needs to move on to the phase of sustainable development and the development of a self-supporting economy and society, moving on from the phase of reconstruction. On the economic front, the country has natural gas and petroleum resources, and allocates the production revenue to public investment and other fiscal expenditure in accordance with certain rules. However, the declining revenue resulting from lower oil production and prices has forced the country to dip into its reserves in recent years. Since only one-third of the population aged 20 and above engages in economic activity and the population under 25 accounts for more than 60 percent of the total population, the country needs to stop its heavy reliance on its reserves and to increase the working population through industrial development. The government formulated the SDP 2011-2030 to become an “upper middle-income nation” by 2030, setting industrial development as one of the priority goals. For a departure from an economy reliant on petroleum and natural gas, industrial diversification is essential. And industrial diversification requires developing new industries, promoting efforts to improve the efficiency of the existing industrial structure, and the development of industrial human resources. The Japanese government has also assisted in the promotion of industry diversification as another priority area for assistance with the goal of assistance to Timor-Leste as mentioned above. This project also comprises part of such assistance. Other Japanese assistance in this field includes advisers on industrial policy and development, agricultural and rural development projects, and the development of industrial human resources at the Faculty of Engineering of the National University of Timor-Leste.</p> <p>The JDS is expected to improve the abilities of government officials who can formulate industrial policies and industrial development strategies and policies.</p>	

Sub-Program	3.Promotion of Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management	
Component (CP)		
Accepting University (Number of scholars)	Hiroshima University (Slot: 2) (1) Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering Degree: Master of Engineering Master of Philosophy Master of International Cooperation Studies (2) Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society Degree: Master of Philosophy	 
Target Group of Civil Servants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Permanent Civil Servants from All Ministries ■ Permanent Teaching Staff from National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB) ■ Permanent Staff from ANATL, APORTIL, AACTL, IGTL, Timor Gap, BTL, and EDTL 	
Expected Research Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Environmental issues including climate change and ecosystem conservation ■ Eco-tourism and Local tourism <p>(Must related to Scientific and engineering aspects of the impact of tourism such as ecosystem/biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, energy system, transportation system, disaster risk, etc.)</p>	
Background of Component	<p>Recent frequent flooding in Timor-Leste has affected the lives of residents in river basins and caused huge damage to the capital Dili and the country's economy. Climate change and worsening environmental problems, including forest destruction, are responsible for the floods. The country has seen continued forest destruction resulting from deforestation for farmland expansion and overgrazing, which has caused damage to forests and ecosystems and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Drought also threatens the food security and livelihoods of rural residents. In addition, future economic growth and urbanization will cause a further increase in greenhouse gas emissions attributable to increasing energy consumption, air and water pollution, increasing waste generation, and biodiversity losses attributable to improper land use. As the tourism industry, one of the priority areas for industrial development, has drawn international attention for biodiversity and ecotourism, the country needs to raise public understanding and awareness of its environmental problems. While the ASEAN has attached great importance to climate change and other environmental problems, Timor-Leste, which wants to join the association, urgently needs to develop human resources in the environmental field. The JDS is expected to develop human resources that contribute to formulating and managing policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, addressing urban environmental problems, sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and disaster management.</p>	

IV. Special Trainings and Events

JDS Program provides the following opportunities for JDS Fellows only in addition to research at university.

Government Leaders Networking Event

This special event aims to establish long-term cooperative relationships between JDS Fellows and Japanese government officials by providing opportunities of interaction and mutual learning. JDS Fellows participate in the event and expand their personal networks with Japanese government officials, who would become their counterparts in the future.



Japanese Language Training

All JDS Fellows participate in Japanese language training after their arrival in Japan. This training provides Fellows with the lessons on Japanese characters (*hiragana*, *katakana*, and *kanji*), greetings, and how to introduce themselves. In addition, they deepen their understandings of Japanese culture, lifestyle and manners, and learn the procedures necessary for staying in Japan such as government office, post office, and bank.



JDS Pre-return Program

JDS Pre-return Program is held half a year before returning home, inviting all JDS Fellows from each university.

During this program, the Fellows have opportunities to attend a series of programs, including leadership program and a special lecture given by a prominent scholar. It also helps them build a network with JDS Fellows from various countries.



JDS website

<http://jds-scholarship.org/>

JICE JDS Project Office in Timor-Leste

Office No. 409 in CBD2 of Timor-Plaza
Dili, Timor-Leste

TEL : 7740 – 3881/ **E-mail :** jds.timor-leste1@jice.org