

# Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN Young Talents Exchange and Capacity Development Program

## Application Guidelines for FY2024 (Overview)

**Application should be made by the Japanese host organization.**

### 1. Basic framework of the program

#### 1.1 Purpose

**NEXUS** (Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN) is a flexible and multi-layered cooperative framework, leveraged by the long history of science and technology cooperation between Japan and ASEAN with the opportunity of the “50th anniversary of friendship and cooperation between Japan and ASEAN.” It is aimed to further strengthen the cooperative research relationship between both sides as partners in co-creating innovations in science and technology. The three schemes below are detailed approaches.

##### International Joint Research

NEXUS supports international joint research in common priority challenges.

##### Researchers Exchange/Development

NEXUS promotes the development of young international researchers through supporting personnel exchange. It aims to initiate international joint research and formulate a pool of research talent resources.

##### A Base

NEXUS establishes a “base” (program office) to promote cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, including strengthening the systems and functions of existing research platforms.

***Young Talents Exchange and Capacity Development Program*** (hereinafter referred to as the "Program") is one of the above-mentioned approaches. The Program aims to support mutual exchanges (dispatch and invitation) in all fields of science and technology for students, researchers, and teachers who are 40 years old or younger, including high school students, thereby contributing to the activation of international brain cycle and the fostering of the next generation of excellent researchers by promoting exchange and building relationships between young human resources in ASEAN and Japan.

#### 1.2 Countries for participation

The 10 member states of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) are Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Laos. The program does not include non-ASEAN countries.

### **1.3 Fields of exchange**

Science and technology (natural sciences, humanities and social sciences)

### **1.4 Requirements for Participants**

#### **( 1 ) Affiliation / Age (※)**

High school students, technical college students, university students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, teachers, those engaged in work related to science and technology in public organizations, and those engaged in research and development work in private companies. The Young Talents Exchange Course is, in principle, for those who are 40 years old or younger, and the Leadership Exchange Course has no age requirement, but is open to postdoctoral fellows, teachers, those who are engaged in work related to science and technology at public institutions, and those who are engaged in research and development work at private companies.

※ The program is open to consecutive applications for multiple years. Participants from previous years may be invited to participate in the program again in subsequent years.

※ Those who are enrolled in an exchange institution at the time of application but have graduated or left their employment at the time of participation in the exchange will not be considered as participants, unless they have decided to continue their enrollment by entering a graduate school at the exchange institution.

### **1.5 Requirements for Japanese organization**

Universities, technical colleges, high schools, national research and development corporations, independent administrative agencies, private enterprises, local public entities, organizations having corporate status such as public corporation, or general corporation in Japan.

### **1.6 Requirements for exchange period**

Up to one year after the contract is signed. The exchange must start within FY2024 and end by the end of December 2025. The maximum period of invitation from the partner country and dispatch from Japan is 90 days per person. Please implement effective and efficient long-term exchanges through hybrid exchanges that combine online exchanges and face-to-face exchanges by dispatching and inviting participants in a well-balanced manner. The same participant may be dispatched/invited multiple times within the maximum number of days of dispatch/invitation.

### **1.7 Exchange plans not covered**

- i. Those not relevant to science and technology (language training, etc.).
- ii. Those with the purpose of profit.
- iii. Those training employees of the exchange organization itself or its subsidiaries, or for the students of its own school or local subsidiary in the partner country.

## 2. Requirements for exchange plan

Exchange plans should be planned based on "1.1 Purpose" and the following information.

### ( 1 ) Young Talents Exchange Course

This course implements the year-round exchanges (dispatching and inviting) for young human resources from each country. The goal is to contribute to the development of young human resources, the promotion of the international brain cycle, the strengthening of foundations for collaboration between institutions, and the expansion of the pool of human resources who will be responsible for future international collaboration research.

**The total number of participants invited or dispatched by JST-supported funds should not exceed 15.**

※No more than 15 persons regardless of the number of institutions involved in the exchange (Although there is no limit to the ratio of invitees/dispatchers, please take this course objective into consideration when drafting your exchange plan).

※A supervisor (no more than one per exchange organization) may participate, but must be included in the total number listed above.

### ( 2 ) Leadership Exchange Course

This course strives to improve the quality of research capability and instruction towards young human resources by allowing educators, etc., of the higher education institutions of each country to participate in training at universities, etc. and engage in mutual exchange with other educators. The course goal is to deepen and strengthen linkages between institutions, and strengthen human resource development foundation including the development of young human resources who will contribute to the international brain cycle in the future.

**The total number of participants invited or dispatched by JST-supported funds should not exceed 2.**

※No more than 2 persons regardless of the number of exchange organizations (no limit on the ratio of invitees and dispatchers)

※No participation by a supervisor will be permitted.

## 3. Recruitment period

	Acceptance start	Deadline	Result notification	Invitation period
FY2024	June 17 (Mon)	September 9(Mon) 13:00	Early November	Up to 1 year from the contract signing date after mid-December

#### 4. Selection criteria (Abstract)

##### ( 1 ) Purpose and outline

The evaluation will be based on whether the program meets the "1.1 Purpose" of this program. In particular, we will evaluate specific descriptions of how the program is expected to contribute to the "the establishment of a complementary and sustainable research ecosystem between ASEAN and Japan" and how it is expected to "further strengthen the sustainable cooperative relationship between the two institutions and to grow together as co-creating partners.

- **Fostering excellent human resources who can contribute to building a complementary and sustainable research ecosystem between ASEAN and Japan**

We appreciate the description of how the implementation of the exchange plan will promote the development of human resources who can contribute to the continuous exchange and brain cycle between ASEAN and Japan.

- **Further strengthen sustainable cooperation between the ASEAN-Japan institutions, evolving into a co-creating partner and developing in the future**

We hope that the implementation of the exchange program will lead to the building of sustainable partnerships and cooperative relationships between ASEAN-Japan institutions. It is expected that the young human resources nurtured through this program and the strengthened cooperative relationship will elevate to "international joint research" and other activities under this program. For example, it is expected that this exchange will lead to the implementation of full-scale joint research with ASEAN universities and other institutions, study abroad for this purpose, and the conclusion and strengthening of agreements involving specific initiatives.

##### ( 2 ) Participants

The organization (institution, department, laboratory, etc.) to which the participant belongs must be an institution with outstanding youth that meets the objectives and implementation of the exchange plan.

##### ( 3 ) Content and its validity

The specific implementation must be appropriate and effective for the purpose and objectives of the exchange plan. The content of the exchange program must be designed to promote innovation by setting issues for both Japan and ASEAN countries, and by developing young human resources, while addressing the themes set for complementary exchanges, while demonstrating the strengths of each country. In the leadership exchange course, the plan must aim at fostering faculty members who can take the lead in implementing the above-mentioned initiatives. In addition, we will also evaluate whether the program is a hybrid exchange program with a well-balanced combination of online exchanges and face-to-face exchanges through dispatch and invitation, whether the balance between dispatch and invitation is effective, and efforts to build cooperative relationships between institutions.

( 4 ) Effective Utilization of Exchange Infrastructure

Applications that utilize the successes and relationship foundations built through various linkages and exchange programs between Japan and ASEAN in the fields of science and technology (examples: the Sakura Science Exchange Program, the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Capacity Development Network: AUN/SEED-Net, etc.) and that build on and develop these results, will be evaluated.

**5. Related procedures**

**5.1 Joining Sakura Science Club**

Invited and dispatched participants in this program will be certified as members of the alumni organization at the end of this program (member ID will be issued).

We will provide useful information on our website to help members continue to serve as a bridge between Japan and ASEAN, and will also provide information on alumni associations to be held in various regions. We will also ask you to cooperate with us by filling out questionnaires and other forms to help us improve our activities.

**6. Expenses covered by JST**

The JST Support is for expenses directly required for the execution of the exchange program and for the compilation of results, and specifically covers the following items, in principle up to 7 million yen. We ask for your cooperation in understanding that this program is intended to support truly essential expenses from the viewpoint of inviting and dispatching as many participants as possible.

- I . Travel expenses: Travel expenses (airfare, accommodation, meal fee, etc) for participants
- II . Cost of goods: Consumables
- III . Gratuities: Lecturers, speakers, etc., part-time students, etc.
- IV . Others: Outsourcing expenses (miscellaneous service expenses), printing and bookbinding expenses, conference expenses, other (miscellaneous expenses), and consumption tax equivalent