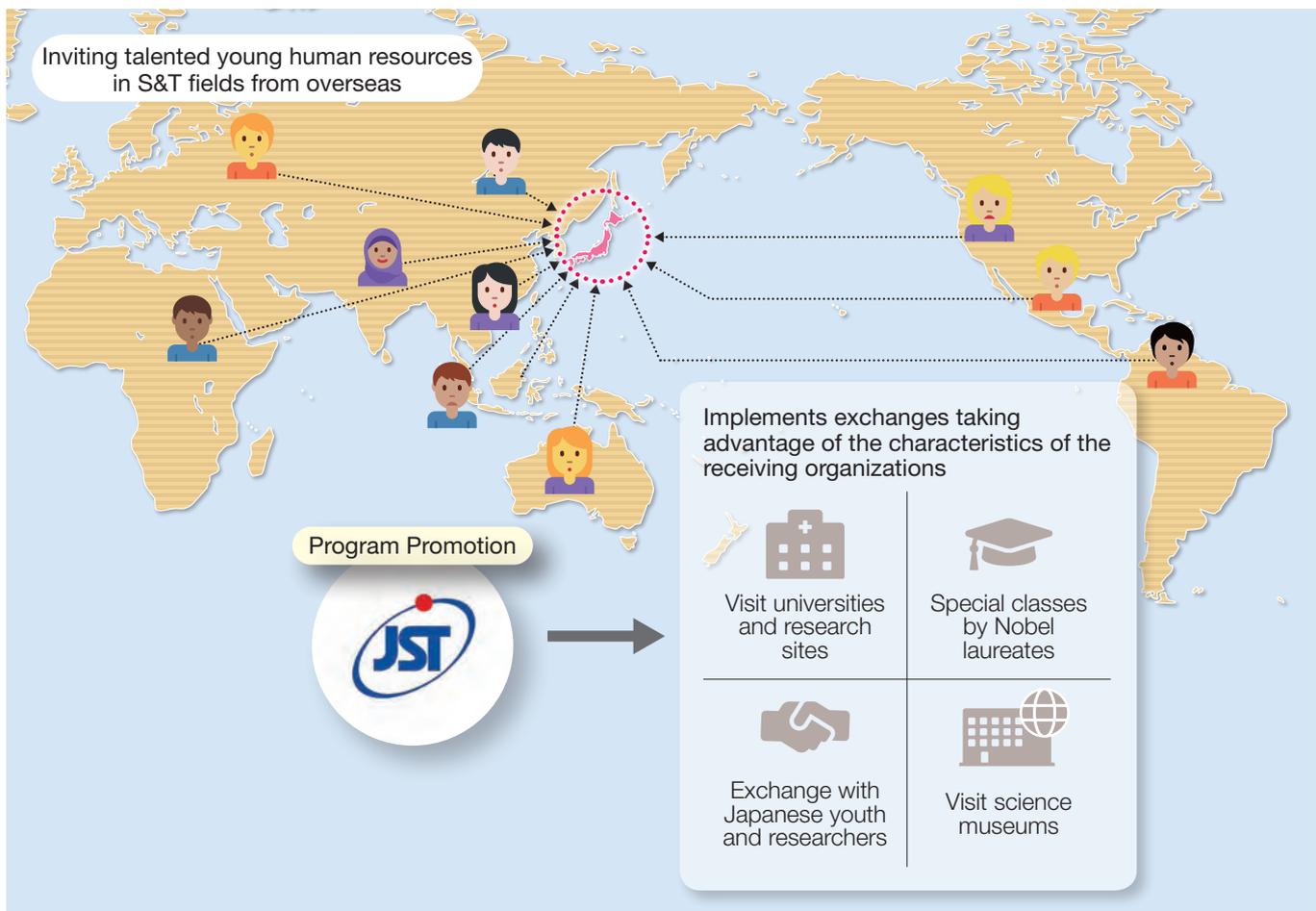


Welcoming the world's talented youth for a new era of cooperation



Eligibility

- ▶ **Invited Countries and Regions:** Generally, all countries and regions are eligible for invitation.
- ▶ **Eligible persons:** Students, researchers and others engaged in science and technology who are 40 years old and under.
- ▶ **Eligible Fields:** From 2021, exchanges in the humanities and social sciences are eligible in addition to natural sciences.
- ▶ **Receiving Organizations:** Educational and research institutes throughout Japan, companies, local governments, various organizations, and others
- ▶ **Expenses:** JST will provide the required expenses* (expenses of travel, sojourn, and others)
*If a company is implementing as a receiving organization, only travel expenses would be provided.

Background and Purposes

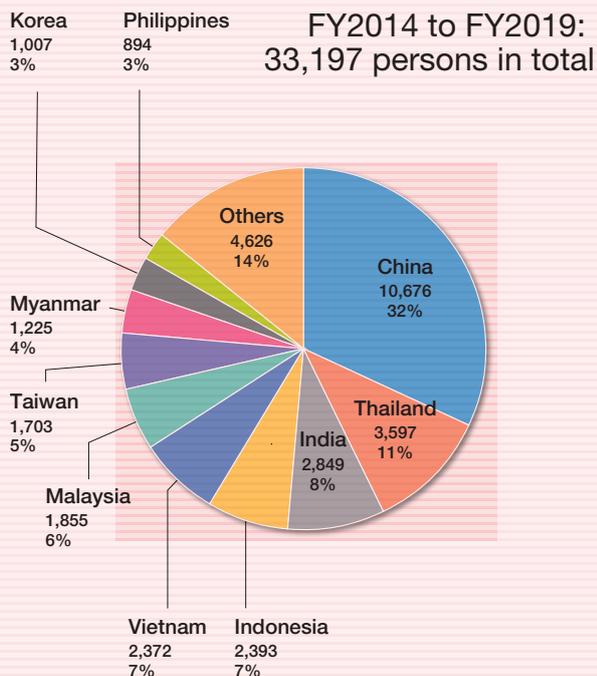
Countries share the future challenge of promoting research and development and transforming results into innovations. In 2014, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) started the “Sakura Science Program.” Since then, the program has invited talented young foreign human re-

sources for short-term visits to Japan, giving them the opportunity to experience both Japan’s cutting-edge science and technology and culture.

During the six years from its initial year to fiscal year 2019, the program has invited about 33,000 people to Japan.

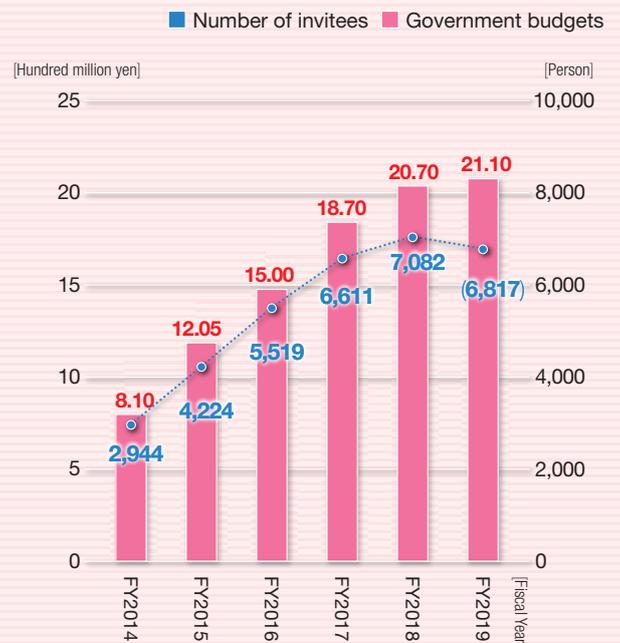
- ▶ Support the development of talented human resources from overseas who have the potential to contribute to innovation in science and technology; and support continuous interaction between Japan and other countries and regions.
- ▶ Promote globalization of Japanese educational and research institutes
- ▶ Strengthen good relationship between Japan and other countries and regions

Number of invitees



Scale of the Sakura Science Program

Number of invitees and government budgets



*Due to the spread of COVID-19, the number of invitees decreased in FY2019; no invitations from overseas were made in FY2020.

Contents of the Sakura Science Program

Open Application Invitation

Exchange plans prepared by Japanese receiving organizations and overseas sending organizations are publicly offered and adopted. In the six years up to FY2019, a total of **2,826** exchange programs were implemented, resulting in a total of **26,691** people being invited.

1 Process to Implement a Program

Program preparation and application to JST by Foreign and Japanese organizations



Program selection by JST through the SSP selection committee
Provision of expenses by JST



The program begins!

2 Types of Open Application Invitation

A Science and Technology Experience Course

Experiences involving Japan's advanced science and technology
(In principle, participants stay in Japan for up to 7 days.)

B Collaborative Research Activity Course

Collaborative research topics, and conducting preliminary experiments, and others
(Participants stay in Japan for up to 21 days.)

C Science and Technology Training Course

Acquisition of cutting-edge technologies and capabilities in Japan
(Participants stay in Japan for up to 10 days.)

3 Application Period

Applications can be submitted by Japanese organizations at any time during the open application period. There are several deadlines within each fiscal year. Applications submitted by each deadline will be reviewed for selection in each application period. Please refer to the website for the latest information.



Example Implementation



Research exchange on bioresource environmental science with researchers from six Asian countries (Asian Natural Environmental Science Center, the University of Tokyo; November 2019)



Thai high school students experience leading edge medical care such as endoscopic surgery in Japan (Oita University Faculty of Medicine; November 2019)

Direct Invitation

JST prepares distinctive programs and directly invites promising youngsters from foreign countries.
In the six years up to FY2019, **6,506** people were invited.

SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program invites excellent high school students from foreign countries to provide them with an opportunity to learn about Japan's most advanced science and technology. For those students, various program contents are prepared.

- ▶ Participate in special classes given by Nobel laureates and other famous scientist
- ▶ Visit renowned universities and research institutions in Japan

- ▶ Exchange with Japanese high school students
- ▶ Visit mother country's embassy in Japan

SAKURA SCIENCE Supporters Program aims to invite stakeholders in science and technology field from overseas, and provides a deeper understanding of Japanese administration in science, technology, and education. We also implement academic exchanges between overseas and Japanese university officials.



SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: Lecture by Nobel Laureate Ohsumi Yoshinori at Senior High School at Komaba, University of Tsukuba (April 2019)



SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: Colombian high school students attending chemistry class at Tokyo Metropolitan Koishikawa Secondary School (November 2019)



SAKURA SCIENCE Supporters Program: Japan-India University Exchange (January 2020)

Online Exchanges

With the progress of digitalization, we are responding to new social and economic formats, and promoting online exchanges.

Open application online exchanges promote exchanges that take advantage of the benefits of being online. We support new developments that are possible online, such as serial and ongoing implementations, providing opportunities for more youth, and deepening post-face-to-face exchanges.

JST Online Exchange provides information and simulated visits to Japanese universities and study abroad for overseas high school students, and others.

We are implementing online university visits that provide experiences, and workshops where Japanese and overseas high school students can discuss SDGs and the like online.



Fermentation Technology Program by Osaka University (November 2020)



Online Exchange Program between Thai Princess Chulabhorn High School and Ichikawa Gakuen Ichikawa Senior High School (December 2020)

Effects of Sakura Science Program

Understanding and positive impression of Japan were heightened

99% of the invitees answered that they became more favorable toward Japan (questionnaire results).

Promotion of revisit to Japan by innovative human resources

A total of **2,076** excellent youngsters returned to Japan for study, research and so on.

Contribution to the globalization of the receiving organization

The receiving organizations answered in the questionnaire that the internationalization of the organization has been promoted and the organization became better known worldwide.



Exchange with Malay students who study environment design (Tokyo City University November 2011)

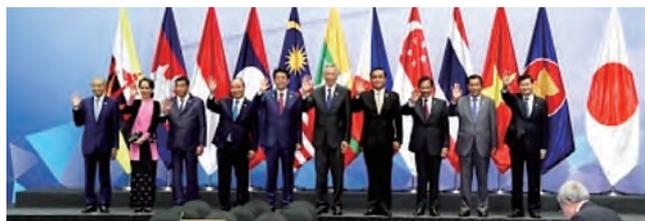


Nobel laureate, Dr. Shirakawa Hideki joins in experimental workshops on High School program every year

Effects in science and technology diplomacy

▶ Sakura Science Program gained a high reputation and support from key persons in other countries, including Xi Jinping ((President of China), Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India), and Ranil Wickremesinghe (Prime Minister of Sri Lanka).

▶ Expression of appreciation for the Sakura Science Program, an initiative to promote human interaction in Japan, during the chairperson's statement at the 21st Japan-ASEAN Summit (November 14, 2018)



21st Japan-ASEAN Summit (Source: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

Building a Network in Sakura Science Club

Through the Sakura Science Club (33,000 members as of January 2021), an alumni association of the Sakura Science Program, we are exchanging information such as study abroad information to Japan.



Professor Fujishima Akira, Professor Emeritus, University of Science, Tokyo, lecturing at an online alumni reunion (July 2020)

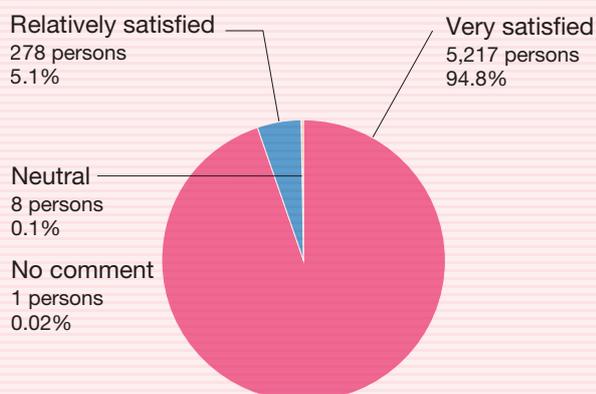
Visit the homepage for more details about the activities.



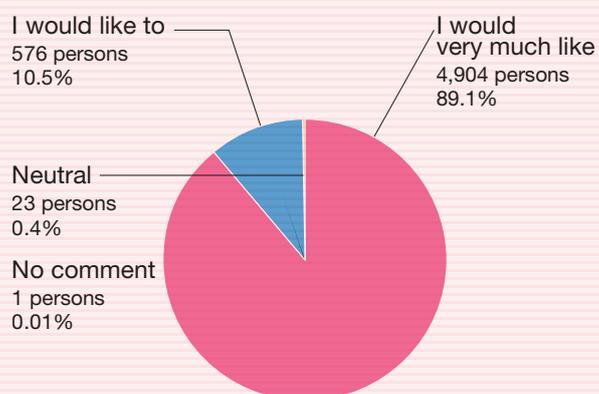
Alumni Reunion in India; (Held at the Indian Institutes of Technology in February 2020)

Results of Participant Survey

Were you satisfied with Sakura Science Program?



Would you like to come back to Japan?



Survey targets: Open Application Program FY2019 participants (including supervisors), Questionnaire method: Questionnaire form filled in at the end of the program, Number of respondents: 5,504

The supporters' network for Sakura Science Program is expanding

(Sakura Science Program Supporter)

Nobel laureates have been strong and influential supporters to SSP, and sharing that they expect SSP to continue for the future of science and technology in Japan and other countries.

Esaki Leo Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973

Tonegawa Susumu Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1987

Shirakawa Hideki Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2000

Noyori Ryoji Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2001

Tanaka Koichi Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002

Kobayashi Makoto Nobel Prize in Physics in 2008

Maskawa Toshihide Nobel Prize in Physics in 2008

Negishi Eiichi Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2010

Yamanaka Shinya Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012

Akasaki Isamu Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014

Amano Hiroshi Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014

Nakamura Shuji Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014

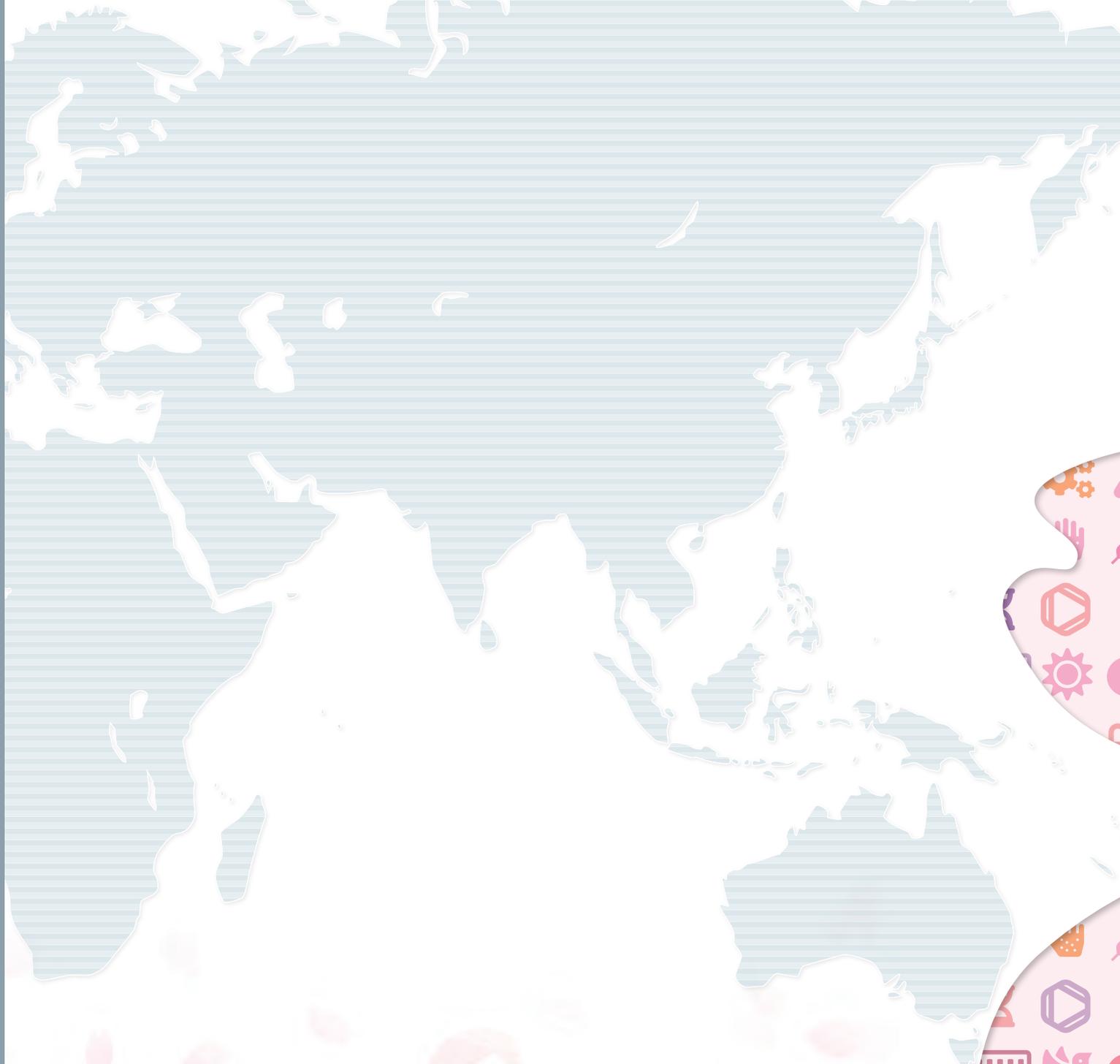
Omura Satoshi Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2015

Kajita Takaaki Nobel Prize in Physics in 2015

Osumi Yoshinori Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2016

Honjo Tasuku Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2018

In addition, academia, industries, ambassadors in Japan from the eligible countries/regions and parliamentary associations for the friendship between Japan and the countries/regions.



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