

Application Requirements

Japan Society for Occupational Health

Occupational Health for SDGs: Research Development Project in Asia

1. Objectives and framework of the Research Project in Asia

(1) Objectives of the Project

Occupational Health for SDGs: Research Development Project in Asia (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") is an international exchange project organized by the Japan Society for Occupational Health (hereinafter referred to as "the JSOH"). Under the Project, the JSOH calls for research proposals from the members and will implement the adopted research. Specifically, it is an entrusted research project in which the proposer promotes the adopted research as a research representative under "an entrusted research agreement."

Located in Asia, Japan has strong cultural and economic ties with the people of the region. One of the objectives of the JSOH is "to contribute to the development of science and society in Japan by promoting occupational health, preventing occupational diseases among workers, and maintaining and promoting their health (Chapter 4 of the Articles of Incorporation)." In recent years, there has been growing international interest in creating an inclusive and sustainable society where diverse people can work in their own way to realize decent work; i.e., humane jobs with job satisfaction. In supporting the prosperous working lives of people living in Japan as well as those living in other regions, conducting human and academic exchanges, and collaborative research, not only within Japan but also with other countries, especially with Asian countries with which Japan has close historical ties and geographical proximity, is important in promoting occupational health in Japan.

This project invites members of JSOH, in collaboration with occupational health practitioners, researchers, and research institutes in Asian countries, to submit research proposals that will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations, particularly in the field of occupational health, by 2030. The adopted proposals will be carried out in the name of the JSOH. In particular, out of the 17 goals and 169 targets, this project focuses on "SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth," especially priority to initiatives based on target "8.8: Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment." In order to formulate a vision of what should aim to achieve this goal as an international exchange project to identify occupational health issues in Asian countries and contribute to finding solutions, the JSOH invites proposals focusing on international joint research from the members.

(2) Framework and method of the Project

In order to solve the issues of occupational health in Asian countries by linking occupational health with SDGs, proposals for international joint research involving collaboration between JSOH members

and occupational health practitioners, researchers, research institutes, etc. in Asian countries will be invited from the members. The proposals will be reviewed by the selection committee, and the adopted ones will be carried out as international joint research of the JSOH.

As the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs are not individually independent but interrelated, the Project must contribute to achieving SDG 8.8, and its theme should contribute to multiple goals or targets in addition to SDG 8.8.

The international joint research will be adopted through selection in FY 2023 and should be completed by the end of FY 2025. An overview of the adopted international joint research will be introduced in a special symposium of the JSOH, etc., and the progress of the research will be reported annually on the yellow page of the Sangyo Eiseigaku Zasshi. A report will be submitted upon completion of the research. In addition, the results will be returned to the members of the JSOH and the public through contributing to the JSOH's academic journals (Sangyo Eiseigaku Zasshi, JOH, EOHP) and through symposiums at the Annual Meeting of the JSOH.

2. Timing and selection process of the proposals

(1) Schedule

Commencement of invitation	January 2023	Publicize on the website of the JSOH, etc.
Closing of applications	March 2023	Noon on Monday, March 20, 2023
Selection	April 2023	Selection by a selection committee of experts
Notification and announcement of selection results	May 2023	
Start of the research	May 2023	
Interim report on the research	September 2024	Submission of interim report (September)
Final report on the research	February 2026	Submission of final report (February)

(2) Planned duration of the research

From May 2023 to February 2026

(3) Size of the research fund

A maximum of 5 million yen (direct expenses + indirect expenses) per proposal (international joint research)

* Expenses deemed directly necessary for conducting research during the research period.

(Personnel costs and purchase of facilities or equipment that can be used for any purpose other than this international joint research may be paid when deemed necessary.)

(4) Planned number of research projects

2 international joint research

(5) Proposal requirements

(i) Requirements of proposer

The proposer of this international joint research (hereinafter referred to as the “Research Representative”) shall be a person who has sufficient ability to conduct the research and be able to establish a system for implementing the international joint research with occupational health practitioners and researchers (co-researchers or collaborators) in Asian countries (excluding Japan).

The Research Representative shall be a regular member of the JSOH who has paid the membership fee for more than three years. The co-researcher or collaborator shall be a person currently residing or working in an Asian country and can carry out his/her responsibilities as an implementing entity for the international joint research in cooperation and collaboration with the Research Representative.

(ii) Requirements of the proposer's organization

The organization to which the proposer of the research or the domestic co-researcher or collaborator belongs shall be entrusted with the administration of the research fund related to the international joint research. Any organization capable of conducting international joint research (i.e., one which can be a part of an entrusted research agreement), whether a domestic university, research institute, private company, or other organization, and NPO, etc., is acceptable.

Accounting for this entrusted research shall be "entrusted accounting" in principle. Therefore, the accounting department of the organization conducting this international joint research must be in charge of accounting as entrusted accounting, and the researcher himself/herself may not.

(iii) Target countries/regions or fields for the international joint research

The international joint research shall be conducted in the countries or regions of "Least Developed Countries (LDC)," "Lower-Middle Income Countries," or "Upper-Middle Income Countries" in the Asian region.

(iv) Implementation structure of the international joint research

In order to make the vision a reality, the Research Representative shall establish an appropriate implementation structure (group) by inviting people who are engaged in solving problems to participate as domestic and international joint research members. In some cases, as a result of the selection process, a person designated by the JSOH may participate as a co-researcher.

(6) Proposal and selection process

(i) Preparation and submission of proposal

The overall concept of the international joint research shall be described in line with the sample proposal.

(ii) Selection method

Selection shall be based on a written proposal in accordance with the form. A comprehensive judgment will be made based on the "Main Viewpoints for Selection" shown below:

Main Viewpoints for Selection

- (i) Consistency of the proposal (issues, objectives, plan, etc.) with the purpose of this project
- (ii) Relevance and consistency with the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs
- (iii) Collaborative structure for international joint research and involvement of wide range of human resources from the JSOH
- (iv) Feasibility of collaboration and plans, including past results, with the fields in countries/regions where the international joint research will be conducted
- (v) Experience and enthusiasm of the proposer
- (vi) Responsible framework, appropriate management organization, and financial planning for governance
- (vii) Whether it is conducted in countries needing assistance (For comparable proposals, priority is given to Least Developed Countries (LDC))
- (viii) Equal partnership within the research team

3. Considerations of the Project

(1) Flow after the adoption

(i) Submission of written plan and finalize research expenses

After the adoption, the Research Representative shall submit to the JSOH an "Overall Plan" and the "Budget Proposal for Research Expense" for the entire period of the international joint research (International Exchange Project). In addition, an "Annual Plan" detailing research and activity plans and research expenditures for each fiscal year shall be prepared. The plan shall include a specific timeline, the costs and implementation structure required for the international joint research.

The proposed budget will be subject to assessment. The actual research fund for the international joint research shall be determined after a close examination by the working group at the time of the formulation of the research plan, followed by confirmation and approval of

the Executive Directors of the JSOH.

(ii) Approval of Annual Plan

The plan of the international joint research (the Overall Plan and the Annual Plan) shall be decided upon approval of the Executive Directors of the JSOH and reported to the Board.

(iii) Change or suspension of the international joint research

In order to achieve the objectives of the international joint research as a whole, coordination among the proposed international joint research projects may be made in the decision of the international joint research plan. In addition, taking into account the overall status of the project, the Board may, at its discretion, shorten the duration, reduce the research fund, or discontinue the research. Further, any cancellation of the international joint research due to reason on the part of the proposer, including return of the fund, shall be discussed when such case arises.

(iv) Submission of reports

The Research Representative shall submit a report on the details of the international joint research conducted for each fiscal year at the time designated by the JSOH.

4. Considerations on execution of budget

(i) Budget execution system

As a budget executor, the Research Representative shall submit a written pledge to comply with the Application Requirement (execution requirements) as an individual. The headquarters of the JSOH may periodically review and audit the use of the research fund.

(ii) Administration of research fund

If the proposed research is adopted, the JSOH will entrust the administration of the research fund and research-related accounting, through the proposer, to the organization to which the proposer belongs.

Accounting for this entrusted research shall be "entrusted accounting" in principle. Therefore, the accounting department of the organization conducting this international joint research must handle the accounting as entrusted accounting, and the researcher may not.

If the organization to which the proposer belongs is not capable, the organization to which the domestic co-researcher belongs can act on behalf.

Expenses related to the administration of the research fund, etc. shall not be paid separately and shall be included in the total amount entrusted. The ratio of such expenses should be about 10% of the research fund.

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