



**The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) and
International Labour Organization (ILO) Collaboration
African Cooperative Leaders' Training Programme in Japan
28 August – 6 September 2017
Concept Note**

Background

For the past years, the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), through, its Cooperatives Unit¹ (COOP) and its Office for Japan (ILO Tokyo), had been exchanging information on their activities and exploring possibility to collaborate in helping building up African cooperatives' capacity in order to bring about a “renaissance” of the cooperative movement in Africa.

In 2010 JCCU and ILO successfully launched a joint study tour programme to assist the African cooperative movement to strengthen its capacity by exposing them to the good lessons learnt by the Japanese cooperatives. From 2010 to 2016, seven study tours have been organized, thus giving the opportunity to 30 senior cooperative leaders and practitioners from nine African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) to benefit from this programme. Through this unique joint programme, the selected African cooperative leaders learns about the Japanese cooperative movement and its strongly membership-based approach through lectures and study visits in Tokyo and its vicinities. This concept note presents basic information on the 2017 study tour programme for interested candidates.

Expected participants

This year, five African cooperative leaders will be invited to Japan to participate in the training programme. The participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Strongly involved/ interested in agricultural production, retailing & marketing and mutual cooperative activities;
- Leadership position in a cooperative enterprise, preferably in cooperative unions or federations/confederation (i.e. **NGOs, government officials are not considered as the primary target group**);
- Good/Fair education degree and/or proven experience in the cooperative movement;
- Results-oriented and proven record of achievements;
- Commitment from the institution sending the candidate;

¹ Initial discussions were initiated by the ILO through its Cooperative Facility for Africa (ILO/COOP_{AFRICA}).

- Strong willingness to share any lessons learnt from the study tour within their cooperative and the cooperative movement as a whole back home.
- Ideally gender balanced; and
- Fluent in both spoken and written English.

Qualified women and young people complying with the above mentioned criteria are highly encouraged to apply.

Overall objectives

Attitude change and paradigm shift of the participants by exposing them to activities and good lessons learnt/challenges of Japanese cooperatives. The participants are expected to share the gained knowledge and experiences through the study tour programme with their cooperative colleagues back home.

Programme outline

A draft programme agenda is attached to the concept note. The main issues are:

1. Introduction of various kinds of cooperatives and their activities in Japan such as consumers', agricultural, financial and workers' and university cooperatives;
2. Lectures on consumers' cooperative activities, and the Cooperative Principles (shared capital, use, and management by the members);
3. Lectures on Japanese agricultural cooperatives, and their activities;
4. Study visits to agricultural, financial, and consumers' cooperatives offices/ distribution centres/stores; and
5. Lectures on Japanese laws and legislation relevant to various cooperatives.

The following links provide information on organizations related to the study tour.

JCCU: <http://jccu.coop/eng/>

ILO Cooperatives Unit: <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/lang-en/index.htm>

Kagawa Archives & Resource Centre: <http://zaidan.unchusha.com/en>

National Association of Labour Banks: <http://all.rokin.or.jp/en/>

National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperatives:

<http://www.zenrosai.coop/english/english.html>

Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation: <http://www.hew.coop/english/>

Norinchukin Research Institute: <https://www.nochuri.co.jp/english/index.html>

JA: <http://www.zenchu-ja.or.jp/eng/index.html>

University Co-op: <http://www.univcoop.or.jp/en/index.html>

Japan Workers' Co-operative Union: <http://english.roukyou.gr.jp/>

Venue, dates and cost

1. **Venue.** The study visits/lectures will take place in Japan.

2. **Dates.** The programme will take place from 28 August – 6 September 2017.
3. **Costs.** The principle of cost-sharing is central to the programme.

JCCU will provide **five fellowships** covering domestic costs: accommodation, training fees and transportation in Japan. In the event of participants not being able to cover their own international travel costs, the ILO might consider providing air tickets but priorities will be given to candidates with secured financial commitment from their respective organization. The ILO is also providing administrative and technical support.

Logistic and administrative arrangement responsibility

The JCCU is in charge of the study tour programme preparation & implementation, covering the domestic costs (except daily subsistence allowance (DSA)) of the programme.

EMP/COOP is responsible for the nomination of five participants, and assisting the participants in preparing their presentations, in close coordination with relevant ILO country offices.

The ILO Tokyo helps facilitate the programme preparation as well as jointly implements the programme.

Ticket booking and purchase will be done by the participants/responsible ILO country offices/EMP/COOP and the flight details be duly communicated to JCCU/ILO Tokyo well in advance.

How to apply

Interested participants must submit the following documentation in English:

- 1) A CV of the applicant;
- 2) A brief outline of the organization, including information on the purpose of the organization, its governance structure (including a description of its board), its achievements and challenges, the size of the organization, the number of staff, the main location and the main sector of activity (coffee, sugar, rice, etc.); its annual turnover;
- 3) A cover letter, including the rationale of participating in such training activity and the choice of the candidate, the challenges faced by the organization for which the training is needed and the vision for their organization in the coming years; and, A description of post-course follow-up activities to share with colleagues (especially board and management) the knowledge, ideas and experience gained from the course;
- 4) A commitment letter from the organization, including the commitment to support travel costs, air tickets, airport transfers and DSA) as well as the practical way forward envisaged by the organization and the participants as a consequence of the learning acquired during the training programme. *In the event that, thereafter, the organization does not honour its financial commitment the ILO reserves the right to disqualify the participant and replace him/her with another candidate.*

The applications should be submitted by email before 25 June 2017 to:

Cooperatives Unit
ILO Headquarters, Switzerland
coop@ilo.org



Selection procedures and information to participants

Only the five selected participants will be notified in writing by JCCU. ILO Tokyo will also provide a guarantee letter to the selected participants in order to process their visa at the nearest embassy.

Insurance liability

The participants shall be responsible for taking out any insurance she/he deems necessary in accepting this training invitation from JCCU.