

**General Information on APT Training Course**  
**(Funded by Extra Budgetary Contribution of Japan (J4))**

1. **Title of Training Course:** Utilization of ICT Services & E-Applications for Overcoming Digital Divide
2. **Organization (hosted by):** BHN Association (BHN)
3. **Duration:** 3 - 20 March 2015 (excluding arrival and departure dates)
4. **Place:** Tokyo, Japan  
  
(In addition, we arrange some study visits outside of Tokyo, such as Tono city in Iwate Prefecture to observe telemedicine systems, Sendai/Ishinomaki for disaster reduction system and Numazu/Fukuroi city for E-Agriculture application, Mitaka city in Tokyo and Kashiwa city in Chiba Prefecture to observe the 'Local ICT Utilization Model Project' promoted by MIC Japan.)

**5. Abstract and Objectives**

There are necessities in each Asian country to boost regional economy and narrow regional gaps in medical treatment, telecommunications services, energy-saving devices which control electric power to be used by smart solution, etc. In Japan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications took the lead in solving the problems, and it has carried out the model projects utilizing ICT.

Broadband communication using optical and mobile technologies is taking off in Asian countries as well. However, even if the broadband communication environment is ready to be exploited, the problem is that there are differences in terms of the level of medical and educational services from one region to another. It is also problematic that the awareness against information security is low. Successes stories of the 'Local ICT Utilization Model Project' promoted by MIC Japan will be introduced to those suffer from the above problems. Lectures and site visits will also be arranged.

It is expected that the digital divide will be narrowed if the trainees, based on the knowledge they acquire during the training course, will study introduction of similar applications tuned to fit to their specific needs in their countries, such as tele-medicine and tele-education. It will also contribute to the deployment of Japanese technologies overseas, including content production and distribution, by strengthening human relationships with the people engaged ICT in Asia through the training course.

The following ICT model systems are considered:

- 1) E-Government
- 2) Tele-medicine; Electronic medical records, remote medical care and watching systems

- 3) Community development supported by 'Creative Restoration' scheme utilizing ICT
- 4) Security, M2M and sensor network technologies
- 5) Environmental protection and monitoring and e-agriculture

In view of the fact that a) the courses that we undertook in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 were well received by the participants, b) that there is a need to increase the number of graduates of such courses, and c) that there is a need to disseminate Japanese application technologies overseas, we would like to propose a training course focusing on e-applications in FY2014 as well.

Trainees will have the chance to visit the following model ICT utilization projects promoted by MIC Japan and see how the systems can fit in their countries.

- a) Construction of the common integrated platform for the energy, the health, and the disaster prevention in Kashiwa-no-Ha smart City
- b) The ICT smart town promoted by Fukuroi City to support the information system which manages the whereabouts and situations, such as agricultural products and support goods at the time of a disaster.
- c) Mitaka City has introduced a WiFi system into an area in front of a station in the context of "community creation" project. This city aims at creating a community in which residents help one another not only at the time of urgencies and disasters but also in ordinary time, thereby promoting prosperity in the area.
- d) In Tono-City of Iwate Pref., ICT such as a TV phone and web-based TV conference is utilized, in order to promote health-conscious local community. Prevention of a diseases associated with lifestyle is pursued. Moreover, in places where there is no medical institution dealing with childbirth, examination of pregnant women living in remote places is made possible by Mobile CTG which utilized ICT between the remote obstetrician and the midwife thereby ensuring safety of a pregnant woman is obtained.
- e) In Sendai, we can discuss how to promote the WiFi mesh radio as a communications system strong against a disaster.

In addition, the course does not only limit the flow of information given in one direction from lecturers to the participants, but also encourages the interactive flow of information among participants themselves and with Japanese specialists by presentations and discussions regarding the present state and future plans of E-Applications in the participants' own countries among participants themselves and with the Japanese specialists, exchanging and sharing the knowledge and information mutually, enabling the participants to feed them back to the planning of ICT in participants' own countries.

The course also includes technical observation visits to related facilities, presentation of country reports and group discussions which also form important parts of this training course. We also are ready to make a necessary guidance to all the participants, so that they can prepare establishing possible future APT J-2/J-3 projects, with the knowledge acquired in this training course.

**6. Schedule:**

Please refer to the attached schedule (**Appendix 1 to Annex 2**) that is subject to change for elaboration and/or adjustment reasons.

**7. Venue:**

BHN Association (BHN)

Address: NTT Ueno Building, 5-24-11, Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005, Japan

URL: <http://www.bhn.or.jp>

Tel : +81-3-6803-2110 Fax: +81-3-6803-2134

Person in Charge: **Mr. Kousuke Dobashi / Mr. Toshikazu Kimura / Mr. Takayuki Arai**

Division: Training Department

E-mail: [dobashi@bhn.or.jp](mailto:dobashi@bhn.or.jp) / [kimurat@mu.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:kimurat@mu.biglobe.ne.jp) / [arai226@a00.itscom.net](mailto:arai226@a00.itscom.net)

**8. Reception at the Airport:**

- On their arrival at Narita International Airport the participants will be met by the host organization's travel agency staff and guided to their hotel.
- At the time of check-in at their hotel, the participants will be given necessary information by the host organization.
- Basically, we advise all the participants how to reach the hotel from the Narita International Airport, so that each participant can reach to the hotel by using the airport limousine bus for Shinjuku Washington Hotel. (Scheduled Duration: approx. 2 hours)  
For details, please refer to the following website [http://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/platform\\_searches/index/2/20Bus](http://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/platform_searches/index/2/20Bus). (Timetables, maps, travelling time and fares information of Shinjuku Washington Hotel), However, we will dispatch our staffs to Narita International Airport to meet the participants who need special assistance.

**9. Hotel accommodation:**

**Shinjuku Washington Hotel (Main Building)**

3-2-9 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8336, Japan

Tel: +81 3 3343-3111 Fax: +81 3 3342-2575

URL: <http://www.shinjuku-wh.com/english/>

**10. Immigration Requirements:**

All foreign visitors entering Japan must have a valid passport.

- Participants requiring visa should apply to Japanese diplomatic mission (embassies and consulates etc.) in their own countries (or to Japanese diplomatic mission directly in charge of the participant's country) as soon as possible.
- Kindly check current visa requirement with the Embassy of Japan or Travel Agent before traveling, or visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan at URL: [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/index.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html)
- For your smooth visa application, visa supporting letters written in Japanese will be provided by BHN and will be sent directly to the participants.

**11. Photograph:**

The participants are requested to bring **one copy of a recent photograph** (within 6 months) in a size of 3 centimeters by 3 centimeters for a participant list.

**12. At Japanese Custom Office:**

- Japanese customs is fairly lenient and allows bringing in items necessary for personal use, however, firearms and other types of weapons and narcotics are strictly prohibited.
- For details please refer to the following website of Japanese Customs:  
<http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/passenger.htm>

**13. Weather:**

It's cold winter in Tokyo during the training period. Average temperature in the daytime is about 10-degree Centigrade. Coat, (maybe muffler and glove too) will be necessary

Although winter in Tokyo is relatively mild compared to other parts of Japan, dry with little chances of rain or snow, in some cases temperature may drop as low as single digit number in degrees Celsius (1 degree to 9 degrees Celsius) or even to the freezing point especially in the early mornings and after the sunset and **chances of snow** or cold rain cannot be totally denied. Strong northerly wind may blow during this season and the wind-chill effect makes one feel colder than the actual air temperature.

The Iwate Prefecture is situated at approximately 450 Km. northern from Tokyo.

Therefore, the temperature of Iwate Prefecture is lower than in several degrees Celsius compared with that of Tokyo.

The chances of snow there is rather higher than in Tokyo.

Also, **rain gear such as umbrella are also essential**. In Japan, it can rain, sometimes all through the day, in any season of the year.

The latest weather information will be obtained at: <http://www.jma.go.jp/en/yoho/index.html>

(See the weekly forecast to obtain the weather, highest and lowest temperatures expected of each day of the corresponding week. – “Get more information on this area” -> pull down menu -> select “One-week forecasts”)

**14. Additional Advices**

It is advised that participants bring shoes suitable and comfortable for walking, as in principle, public transportation system (Metro, Trains and Buses) will be used during the training and it sometimes requires certain distance of walking to and from and between stations, bus stops and training venues and hotel of participants' accommodation.

Public transportation and travel Time: For the site visits and lectures during the course, we will use public transportations such as bullet trains, subways, local trains, buses and taxis. Please refer to our training schedule for details.

**15. Electric Current:**

Please note that commercial electricity in Tokyo is at **AC 100V 50Hz** with American type outlet plugs (**Type A Class II**). We ask that participants **bring transformer and plug adapter (American type outlet plug)** if they wish to use their own PCs in Japan.

**16. Secretariat:**

Contact persons: **Mr. Kousuke Dobashi / Mr. Toshikazu Kimura / Mr. Takayuki Arai**

Division: Training Department

Company name: BHN Association

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**17. Notes:**

The host organization's business hours are from **9:00AM to 5:30PM**, from Monday to Friday. They do not work on Saturdays and Sundays. Messages sent to them will be received only during working hours.

Also beware of the **time difference**, Japan is ahead of most other countries.

(Japan Standard Time is **UTC +9 hours**. Japan does not observe daylight saving time.)

**That means their office will be closed earlier than in the cases of most of the participants' countries.**

Please also note that **March 21, 2015 is national holiday** in Japan and host organization's office will closed in addition to Saturdays and Sundays.

Occasionally, **March 21, 2015 is Saturday.**

**Japanese Embassies and Consulates in the applicants' countries may also close on Japanese national holidays.**

**18. Regulation:**

- not to bring any member of his/her family;
- not to change accommodation during training period;
- to participate in the course from the beginning to the end; and
- to return his/her home country at the end of their training course according to the international travel schedule designated by APT.

Participants are required to comply with instructions given by APT and the local host. (Further information on the requirement is found in the "Guidelines for APT fellowships under HRD Programme (2013)" and other related document).