

JICA Youth Training Program 2023 "Local Administration/Regional Development" for Maldivian and Jordanian participants



Yamaguchi University conducted the JICA Youth Training Program 2023 "Local Administration/Regional Development" for Maldivian and Jordanian participants from January 15 to 26, 2024.

Based on a contract with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Chugoku Center, this training was conducted by staff members of the Faculty of Economics and the International Exchange Division in cooperation with six local governments: Yamaguchi Prefecture, Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi City, Ube City, Mine City, and Hagi City.

The purpose of this training program is for young administrative officials from developing countries to learn about the history of local administration and regional development in Japan and the role of local governments, to find clues to solve problems in their own countries, and to deepen friendship between Japan and each country by knowing Japanese history, by experiencing traditional culture, and by socializing with local residents.

In the first half of the program, Professor Asamizu, Associate Professor Saito, and Professor Tomimoto (special mission) of the Faculty of Economics gave lectures on tourism policy, regional development, and public administration at the JICA Chugoku Center in

Higashihiroshima City, and visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Saijo Kindergarten.

In the second half, participants learned about local government in cooperation with Yamaguchi Prefecture, Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi City, Ube City, Mine City, and Hagi City. In Hagi City, the participants were briefed on the Hagi Whole Town Museum project and the role of the helpdesk for citizens which outsourced to private sectors, visited the Meirin School, Shoin Shrine, and Hagi Oukan Road Station, and then attended a lecture on policy evaluation by Professor Nishiyama. The students were able to learn about the importance of local autonomy in regard to the development and democratization of Japan and how to plan for development in regions facing the challenges of declining birthrates and aging populations, as well as gain a valuable opportunity to experience Japanese history and culture and local people's kindness.

The Faculty of Economics will continue to actively engage in various international exchanges by making the most of its past experiences.

