



## INDIA-JAPAN

# FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant for Industry-university Collaboration (IC)

## Call for Proposals 2023

### 1. Overview and Objectives

**India-Japan FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant (FRIENDSHIP2.0 Research Grant)** aims to enhance sustainable collaboration between IIT Hyderabad (IITH) and academic institutions and/or industries in Japan in association with FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0.

FRIENDSHIP2.0 Research Grant offers two kinds of grants in science and technology, namely (AC) academic collaboration and (IC) industry-university collaboration. This Guideline is for IC category. FRIENDSHIP 2.0 IC Research Grant 2023 focuses on serving as seed money to enhance trust between IITH and Japanese companies and to further develop current collaborative activities into a sustainable organizational partnership.

### 2. Application Deadline:

**End of every month from September 2023 to October 2024**

### 3. Eligibility

The applicant (Principal Investigator, PI) must:

- 1) Be a full-time faculty member of IITH.
- 2) Obtain an agreement letter or email from a Co-PI in Japanese industry to conduct of the joint research and to agree to cost-sharing of JPY200,000 in cash.
- 3) Be able to afford a dedicated or shared lab space for research activities of the funded project.
- 4) Submit only one proposal, regardless of whether it falls under the AC or IC category.
- 5) Not currently conducting FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Joint Research as a PI regardless of whether it is in the AC or IC category.

#### **4. Research Period and Number of Grants**

Research Period: Starting between November 2023 and December 2024 and ending by May 2025

Duration: Between 6 months to 19 months depending on the starting month

\*Please specify the period and duration in the application.

| Starting month              | Ending month                     | Duration      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| (Beginning of)<br>Nov. 2023 | (End of)<br>Apr. 2024 – May 2025 | 6 – 19 months |
| Dec. 2023                   | May. 2024 – May 2025             | 6 – 18 months |
| • • •                       | • • •                            | • • •         |
| Dec 2024                    | May 2025                         | 6 months      |

Tentative Number of Grants: Total 3 (as of September, 2023)

#### **5. Selection Criteria for IC category**

- 1) Quality of the research proposal (novelty, rationale, research questions and future perspectives).
- 2) Readiness for and potential of continuous R&D with the Co-PI in industry.
- 3) It is strongly recommended that at least one student under the supervision of the PI be involved as a member of the research team.
- 4) Clear assignment of tasks to academic and industrial research members.
- 5) Practical planning for human resources development at IITH including internship and/or recruitment of IITH students by the Co-PI's company. (e.g. IITH Industry Lecture scheme can be utilized for this.)
- 6) Direct communication between PI and Co-PI (In addition to PI's visit to Co-PI in Japan, Japanese Co-PI's one week visit to IITH is strongly recommended although travel cost of Co-PI will "not" be covered).
- 7) Involvement of academic researcher(s) as the Academic Advisor from Japanese university/research institution (The travel cost of the Japanese Academic Advisor to IITH will be covered).
- 8) Appropriateness of budget

## **6. Selection Procedure**

### **1) Document Evaluation**

Results will be conveyed to each applicant via e-mail around the middle of the month following the submission of the application. Successful applicants are invited to the interview session.

### **2) General Evaluation by Interview**

The interview will be conducted around the middle of the month following the submission of the application.

## **7. Funding Structure**

### **1) Amount of Grant**

- Up to INR 2,000,000 including any taxes and duties<sup>1</sup>
- The budget is allocated exclusively for expenses to the PI's research team. There is no budget provision for Co-PI's team, except travel costs of academic advisors of Co-PI's research team, which will be separately borne by the Project.

### **2) Execution of Budget**

- Budget execution strictly adheres to the Financial Guidelines of the JICA Project Team, which will be provided to PI's following their selection.
- Procurement is conducted by the JICA Project Team based on the PI's request, all within the approved budget.
- In the case where any major change of budget is needed, the PI must submit a letter, presenting the reason and revised budget, and receive approval by the JICA Project Team.
- Additional funding from the Co-PI should follow the regulations of the corporation that employs the Co-PI.

### **3) Expenses**

- PIs can use the budget for three distinct categories, each with its specific budget limit described in Table 1.
- Delivery of all equipment must be completed by the end of last month of the grant period.
- The necessity of each item with immediate relevance to the research methods must be clearly explained in Attachment 4 Budget. Ambiguous explanation will not be accepted.

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<sup>1</sup> Under JICA rules, the JICA Project Team is responsible of purchasing all items. Hence, tax exemption will not be applied

**Table 1 : Category and Budget Limit**

| Category   | Budget limit  |
|--|---------------|
| a) Research equipment  | INR 1,200,000 |
| b) Travel cost from India to Japan for PI and faculty members of PI's team | INR 800,000   |
| c) Registration fee for international conference held in Japan             |               |
| Total  | INR 2,000,000 |

4) Details of each category

a) Research equipment:

- This category includes tools, devices, machines and software with a unit cost exceeding INR 32,000 and a lifespan of more than one year.
- The estimated cost of a set of equipment must not be more than INR 800,000. For example, when procuring 10 PCs with a unit price INR 100,000, the estimated price of the set of equipment is INR 1,000,000, which is not allowed for procurement.
- One quotation for each piece of equipment must be submitted as part of the budget plan. Online quotations are acceptable.
- Equipment procurement must be carried out within India.
- Advanced payment is not acceptable.
- Payments are facilitated through international remittance from Japan.

b) Travel costs from India to Japan

- Travel costs for faculty staff of the PI's research team is covered for the purpose of research at the Co-PI's lab or oral presentation at international conferences held in Japan.
- The duration of the stay in Japan must be up to 90 days.
- Any travel costs of students including domestic travel for research purposes are NOT covered.
- Specific details regarding the travel costs to Japan are shown in Table 2.
- Travelers are responsible for making their own travel preparations to Japan, including VISA applications, securing suitable airline tickets, hotel reservations, and ensuring compliance with entry/exit regulations under COVID-19 in both Japan and India.

**Table 1: Travel cost to Japan**

| Items  | Condition  |
|--|--|
| International airfare  | Only economy class tickets that are refundable and amendable are accepted.<br>One quotation must be submitted as part of the budget plan. Online quotations are acceptable.  |
| Local transportation in Japan  | Only the following costs are covered.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation from the international airport in Japan to the accommodation location.</li> <li>- Travel expenses incurred when traveling more than 100 km per day.</li> </ul> Taxi costs are NOT covered any circumstances.  |
| Accommodation  | See Table 3  |
| Daily allowance  | See Table 3  |
| International travel insurance   | International travel insurance is mandatory.   |
| Application for visa to Japan<br>(Short-term Visit only)                                   | Travelers are responsible for applying for the visas individually. The organization to which the Co-PI is affiliated shall act as the inviter and guarantor for the visa application process <sup>2</sup> .<br><br>Visa fees and VFS service <sup>3</sup> charges are covered.<br>Visa fees are INR 500, and VFS service charges are INR 1,200 as of Sep 15, 2023. |
| Necessary expenses to entry/exit rules and regulations in Japan and India due to COVID-19. | As of 15 Sep, 2023, no entry/exit rules and regulations are in practice.<br>However, if such regulations are implemented in the future, expenses such as PCR tests are covered.<br>Detailed information on this matter will be provided in the Financial Guidelines later.   |

- PIs are required to utilize the budget amount specified in Table 3 for their applications. However, the actual disbursement of funds, as indicated in Table 3, will be made in INR using JICA's latest exchange rate for the conversion from the actual amount in JPY. Additional information regarding this process will be provided to PIs in the Financial Guidelines.

**Table 2: Accommodation and Daily Allowance**

| Category  | Accommodation            |                          | Daily allowance |                |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|           | Budget plan              | Actual amount            | Budget plan     | Actual amount  |
| Professor | INR 7,800 / night<br>max | JPY 11,800 /night<br>max | INR 4,100 /day  | JPY 6,200 /day |

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the guideline of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. According to the guideline, "The inviting organization should be a corporate body, an organization, or the state/local government. However, for example, the professor/associate professor can be recognized as the inviting organization if a university extends an invitation for the purpose of exchanges under his/her name". Please consult it with the Co-PI.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/short/other\\_visa.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/other_visa.html)

<sup>3</sup> VFS is an official partner of the Embassy of Japan in India. There is a branch in Hyderabad. Refer to the VFS website. <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/jpn/>

|                     |                         |                          |                |                |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Assistant Professor | INR 6,600 /night<br>max | JPY 10,100 /night<br>max | INR 3,500 /day | JPY 5,300 /day |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|

- c) Registration fees for international conferences held in Japan

The fees are covered for faculty members of PI's research team, whether they attend in person or online, specifically for the purpose of making an oral presentation. The registration fees for students are NOT covered.

## 8. Visit from Japan to IITH by Co-PI's team members

- 1) Visiting IITH by Co-PI's team members is optional although it is strongly recommended. Travel costs of Co-PI and team members in industry are not covered while those for registered Academic Advisors of the Co-PI's research team are covered.
- 2) The visits can be max twice in the grant period, and the duration of staying at each travel is 7 days including travel time between India and Japan.
- 3) PIs must specify the purpose, provide the name of the individual visiting IITH, indicate the duration of each visit, and provide a tentative schedule in Attachment 3 Time Schedule.

## 9. Reports and Duties

### 1) Research Ethics

Before starting research, PIs are requested to obtain and submit a certificate from the "e-Learning Course on Research Ethics" (<https://elcore.jsp.go.jp/top.aspx> ).

### 2) Reports

FRIENDSHIP2.0 requests PIs to submit the progress and final reports below; however, any changes in team members and/or research plans must be immediately reported to the JICA Project Team.

- Mid-term Report: The end of the month when half of the research period is over  
Mid-term Report must include any change of team members students, the research achievement according to the research plan, plans of publications and patent applications, records and plans of travels, financial record, and plans of application for third-party research funding (A table of contents will be provided).
- Final Report: The end of the research period  
Final Report must include the research achievement according to the research plan, list of publications, patent applications, travels, financial record, and third-party research funding obtained/applied for (A table of contents will be provided).

### 3) Contribution to FRIENDSHIP 2.0

FRIENDSHIP2.0 also requests PIs to contribute to the enhancement of industrial partnerships between India and Japan through giving seminars and/or ad-hoc lectures by Co-PI for all IITH faculty and students, inviting Co-PI and academic advisor, and so forth. Japan Desk will assist PIs in preparing for such events and publicize information on the Japan Desk website.

## **10. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**

FRIENDSHIP 2.0 supports creation of values through the collaborative research between IITH and Japanese industries and therefore encourages PIs to disclose any potential conflicts of interest and agree on a policy regarding IPR and confidentiality with your prospective Co-PI before application in order to avoid a situation where proposed research cannot be started due to IPR issues after the grant has been awarded.

- a) PI and Co-PIs (called 'Parties') are under obligation with respect to the Confidential Information shared during the project discussions in relation to this agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party. Nothing under this agreement, nor furnishing any information hereunder shall be construed as granting, either expressly or impliedly, any license under but not restricted to any trademark, patent, copyright, invention, technical information, know-how, now or hereafter owned by the Party furnishing such information. For the applicability of this clause, it is the responsibility of the former party to explicitly mention the nature of such information to the latter before sharing the same.
- b) The parties are encouraged to share the knowledge developed through the project with the greater scientific community in the form of journals, Conference publications, reports, and white papers. Due clearance from respective institutions and adherence to the above confidentiality clause may be ensured while doing so. The parties are also at liberty to use such knowledge, thus publicly made available, for their further research or commercial purposes.
- c) If the scope of the research project involves any IPR (patent, trademark, registration, and so on), Parties are encouraged to disclose any potential conflicts of interest and agree on a policy regarding IPR before application in order to avoid a situation where the proposed research project cannot be started due to IPR issues after the grant has been awarded.
- d) It is recommended that a preliminary general IPR agreement be aligned in case of the creation of any intellectual property (patent, design registration, copyright, or trademark) by joint efforts of Parties under this research project, both Parties shall have the ownership of such intellectual property. Modalities of commercial exploitation, and licensing out such IP will be finalized separately through mutually agreed terms and conditions as and when applicable and when needed. Parties are also encouraged to make ex-ante agreements on this subject of intellectual property rights that are to be produced through the collaboration.

Japan Desk will provide technical support for patent application in cooperation with Dean of Research and Development of IITH and according to the IPR policy of IITH.

## **11. Application Form and Submission**

Application forms are available on the Japan Desk portal site:

<https://www.iith.ac.in/japandesk/>

Fill in the Application Form and send the following documents to FRIENDSHIP 2.0

< iith.jointresearch.application@gmail.com >

- 1) Application Form (research proposal) , including Attachment 1 (CV of the applicant)
- 2) Attachments to the Application Form (2. List of research team member 3. Time schedule: 4. Budget)
- 3) Reference for 4. Budget (specification and budgetary quotations of equipment and international airline tickets)
- 4) Copy of letter of Agreement or email from Co-PI

## **12. Contacts**

FRIENDSHIP 2.0: <iith.jointresearch.enquiry@gmail.com>

(CC to IITH Japan Desk: <japandesk.ir@iith.ac.in>)