

FRIENDSHIP2.0 PROJECT

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CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|----|--|----|
| 1.The Second Trip of the JICA Project Team | P2 | 6. Invited to Speak at JICA Educational Cooperation Week Event | P5 |
| 2. Conducted PR Event for FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant Program 2nd Batch | P3 | 7. Held a Meetup Event for FRIENDSHIP Scholarship Graduates | P5 |
| 3.Meeting between the Mitsubishi Chemical Group and IITH Faculty Members | P3 | 8. Japan Desk Logo Contest | P5 |
| 4.Pre-departure Orientation for FRIENDSHIP2.0 Scholars | P4 | 9. Upcoming Activities | P6 |
| 5.Conducted PR Event for FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Scholarship Program 2nd Batch | P4 | | |



Dr. Ambika's lab



Staffs working for Japan Desk
Ms.Sangeeta(Left) and Ms. Pranitha(Right)

Japan Desk launched the portal site to promote collaboration between IITH and Japan.
Please click the link below and scan the QR in right for more details. <https://www.iith.ac.in/japandesk/>



1. The Second Trip of the JICA Project Team (August 2022)

From 7th to 27th August, two JICA project team members traveled to India to carry out the following activities for the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project (hereafter referred to as the project).

- FRINEDSHIP2.0 Joint Research Grant Program PR event (details in the 2nd article)
- FRIENDSHIP2.0 Scholarship Program PR event (details in 5th article)
- FRIENDSHIP2.0 2022 Pre-departure orientation
- Procurement audit for FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Joint Research 1st batch
- Principal Investigator (PI) interviews for PR purpose

On this second trip to India, JICA project team members shared the progress of the project with the project director of the project, B. S. Murty, Director, the project manager, Prof. Tarun Kanti Panda, and the 12 PIs of the FRINEDSHIP 2.0 Joint Research Program.

The meeting provided a good opportunity for all members to feel a high level of enthusiasm and commitment to the project and to confirm the sense of unity through the active exchange of views from both the Japanese and Indian sides.



(Fig1: Meeting between IITH and JICA Project Team)



(Fig2: Procurement Audit by Japan Desk)

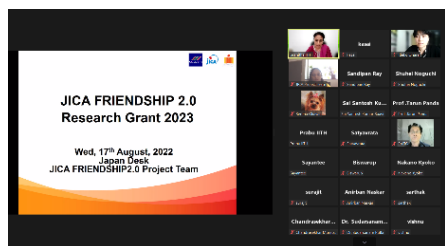


(Fig3: Interview with Dr. Suriya)



(Fig4: Interview with Dr. Anamika)

2. Conducted PR Event for FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant Program 2nd Batch (August 2022)



(Fig5: PR Event for FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant)

On 17th August, a PR event was held prior to the call for applications for the FRIENDSHIP Research Grant Program 2023 (2nd batch). The program provides grants to IITH faculty for joint research with Japanese academic institutions and Japanese companies in the fields of science and technology. The Research Grant program aims to promote India-Japan collaboration through activities such as co-supervising of IITH students, internships at Japanese companies, and seminars. More than 40 IITH faculty members participated in the event, which helped increase IITH faculty members' interest in joint research with Japan.

3. Meeting between the Mitsubishi Chemical Group and IITH Faculty Members (August 2022)



(Fig6: Meeting for opinion exchange)

The Japan Desk held an online meeting on 22nd August to exchange views on industry-university joint research with IITH faculty and researchers from the Mitsubishi Chemical Group, to which the JICA project team member Dr. SANO Hiroshi, Engineering Education Expert, belongs. The meeting was attended by 16 faculty members from IITH, including the Director of Research and Development, and a Japan Desk officer, while 5 researchers and staff from the Mitsubishi Chemical Group participated from Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation and Mitsubishi Chemical Systems, Inc. IITH presented the current status and strategy of industry-university joint research, and the Mitsubishi Chemical Group explained its research needs in response to environmental changes, including decarbonization, and its policy for collaboration with external partners in open innovation. An active exchange of opinions took place on chemicals, materials, IT business, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and other topics.

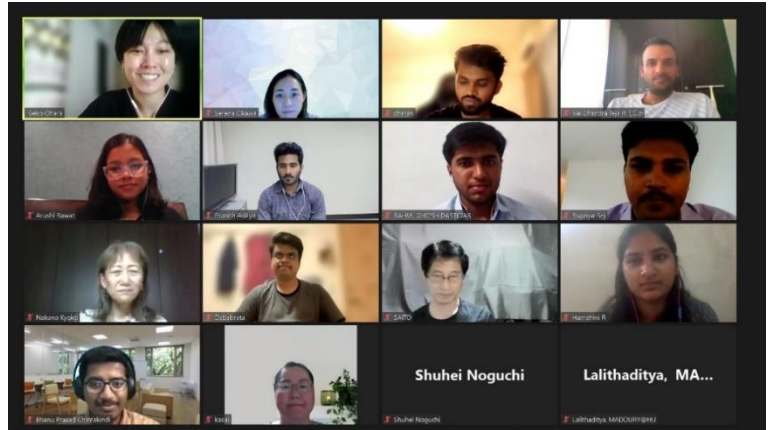
It was a learning experience for the IITH professors, who do not have much interaction with Japanese companies. The professors gave high marks to the event, saying that it was a very good event, that they were able to understand what the company was interested in, and that they were able to learn about the current and future technology development policies of the company. It was a meaningful occasion for communicating with Japanese companies and provided an opportunity to promote India-Japan industry-university collaboration. The JICA Project team would like to thank all the participants from the Mitsubishi Chemical Group for their open discussion.

4. Pre-departure Orientation for FRIENDSHIP2.0 Scholars (August 2022)

The FRIENDSHIP 2.0 scholarship program aims to establish sustainable academic and industrial research collaborations between India and Japan through promoting joint research, joint supervision, and other joint activities during scholars' doctoral study in Japan. Participants selected under this scholarship are expected to acquire the doctoral degree in the prescribed period, and to be an actor to promote collaborations between IITH and Japan.

On 23rd August, Japan Desk and the JICA project team members organized an online pre-departure orientation session for the newly selected six FRIENDSHIP 2.0 participants. The first half of the orientation consisted of introducing the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 scholarship program, its purpose and the expected roles of the selected participants. Senior FRIENDSHIP participants as well as successful FRIENDSHIP alumni, who completed their PhDs were also invited to share their experiences in research, life in Japan, and their career paths. In the latter half, the orientation served as an opportunity to build a network, through a casual free talk session.

In total, 15 attended the orientation, including IITH faculty, Senior FRIENDSHIP participants, and FRIENDSHIP alumni. The orientation received positive responses from all attendants.



(Fig 7: the pre-departure orientation)

5. Conducted PR Event for FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Scholarship Program 2nd Batch (August 2022)

FRIENDSHIP2.0 held an online PR event on 24th August. The event was given in advance of the official recruitment announcement in early November, aiming to encourage students to prepare applications based on deep discussions with the supervisor at IITH and the prospective supervisor in Japan. The number of participants was more than 50, which implies that the study in Japan has become popular among IITH students.

The event consisted of an explanation session by the project and a session by invited speakers. Mr. Daisuke Tanji, an activist involved in various activities connecting India and Japan, made an attractive presentation, introducing similarities and differences between India and Japan and jacked up the motivation for studying in Japan. Ms. Anju P. V., a FRIENDSHIP scholar in the midst of research at Hokkaido University, presented how they work in a Japanese-style laboratory. Dr. Mahendra K. Pal and Dr. Mohit Joshi spoke about their experiences from their doctoral study to their current jobs, emphasizing how such experiences have been valuable.

The Japan Desk is publicizing information on the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Scholarship Program on the portal site while receiving inquiries at any time



(Fig8: Senior scholar encourages IITH students)

6. Invited to Speak at JICA Educational Cooperation Week Event (September 2022)

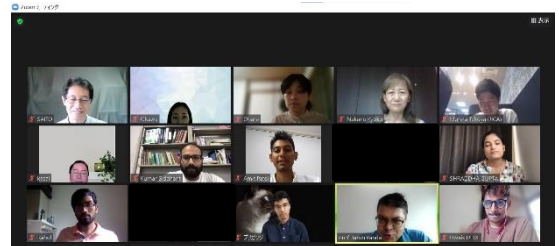
Educational Cooperation Week, organized by the Educational Cooperation Week Steering Committee composed of volunteers of JICA staff and consultants, is the second event this year to promote the building of an "Educational Cooperation Platform" and is open to practitioners of educational cooperation such as consultants, universities, NGO/NPOs, and JICA. As part of the event, an industry-university collaboration session entitled "Toward Sustainable Industry-University Collaboration: New Partnership between Industry and Universities" was held online on 8th September. Mr. SAITO Kunitoshi, a team leader of the project, and Dr. NAKANO Kyoko, who is in charge of higher education in the project, introduced IIT Hyderabad's activities to promote industry-university collaboration with Japanese companies and participated in a panel discussion. Other examples of partnerships with Vietnam and Japan University, Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology, and Leave a Nest Co., Ltd. in collaboration with Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology were introduced, and an active exchange of opinions and discussions took place with more than 80 participants.

The project's message focused on the experience of the first phase of the project, which is that there is no industry-university collaboration without mutual trust, and the synergistic effects of combining the project's main activities, such as the scholarship program for study in Japan and the Japan-India Joint Research Grant Program.

7. Held a Meetup Event for FRIENDSHIP Scholarship Graduates

An online meet-up event was held on 15th September for 12 graduates of the FRIENDSHIP Scholarship who would complete their master's and doctoral programs in September 2022. The purpose of the event was for the graduates to reflect on their time in Japan, share their experiences, and deepen exchanges with other scholars. The graduates shared their experiences of adjusting to life in Japan, including eating habits and language, as well as how they overcame various challenges in their research with the advice of their supervisors and discussion with their laboratory members.

Many of graduates were able to use their experiences in Japan and the achievement of their research to pursue diverse career paths, such as doctoral programs in Japan or abroad, to become postdoctoral researchers in Japan or abroad, or to find employment with Japanese companies. Many graduates expressed their desire to share their experiences with IITH students interested in studying in Japan and to encourage them to do so. We hope that the graduates will continue to serve as a bridge for collaboration between IITH and Japan.



(Fig9: Online meetup event)

8. Japan Desk Logo Contest

The Japan Desk is creating a logo to promote its activities to the public. The theme of the logo is "A logo that evokes the image of India-Japan academic and industry-university collaboration that will continue into the future.", and a call for proposals from IITH students was held from 28th July to 17th August, and six students submitted their ideas.

The six entries will be reviewed by the Japan Desk Steering Committee and the winner will be announced on the Japan Desk portal by the end of October.

9. Upcoming Activities

Various activities to promote India-Japan collaboration, including the Japan Desk events, will be carried out with the support of the JICA project team. The main activities planned are as follows. We look forward to your kind cooperation and support.

- Participation in CEATEC International Exhibition (from 18th to 21st October at Makuhari Messe for on-site exhibition and from 1st to 31st October for online exhibition)
- Online seminar to introduce IITH at CEATEC International Exhibition (19th October, 13:30-14:30)
- Detailed Planning Survey by JICA survey mission (October-December)
- 2nd Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting (1st December @ IITH+ online)
- Recruitment and selection of the second batch of FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Scholarship Scholars (about 20 Scholars) --Application deadline: 16th December
- FRIENDSHIP2.0 Joint Research Grant Program Batch 2 Call for Applications and Selection (about 10) -- Application deadline November 2

Contact

IITH Japan Desk Office: Academic Center, Building A #213

Email: japandesk.ir@iith.ac.in [English]