

## Training to Be Held for Local Japanese-Language Teachers in Sri Lanka with the Aim of Accepting Skilled Foreign Workers:

—“Irodori” Japanese Language Teacher Training Course—

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From December 11, 2024, to March 29, 2025, The Japan Foundation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Sri Lanka Office will jointly host training in Sri Lanka, in Japanese-language instructional methods for local Japanese-language teachers who instruct students interested in working in Japan. The program will be held with the cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE).

The program will instruct participants on how to teach the Japanese language skills necessary for living and working in Japan. It will be the first months-long practical training program for Japanese-language teachers in Sri Lanka since the establishment of the Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) residence status in 2019.

Although the number of Sri Lankans interested in working in Japan has increased in recent years with the establishment of the SSW residence status, reaching the level of Japanese language proficiency required after they arrive in Japan remains a challenge, and support has even been requested by the SLBFE and other Sri Lankan government agencies.

The program is expected to contribute not only to the promotion of cultural and interpersonal exchanges between Japan and Sri Lanka but also to the realization of a society in which Japanese people and those of other nationalities can comfortably and harmoniously live side by side.

The training will provide Sri Lankan Japanese-language teachers who instruct learners of Japanese at institutions such as sending organizations or vocational schools with guidance on how to teach communication-centric Japanese for living and working in Japan (A1/A2 level). By training Japanese-language teachers in Sri Lanka, it aims to raise the level of Japanese language proficiency among Sri Lankans who come to Japan to work.

The training will use the textbook *Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan*, which was exclusively developed by the Japan Foundation. The objective of this textbook is learning Japanese for living and working in Japan. The training is designed for practical learning by participants, beginning with a lecture on the principles and features of the textbook and incorporating mock lessons midway through. It will be conducted in a hybrid format, with two four-hour sessions in person and eleven two-hour sessions online, for a total of thirty hours of training.

The instructors will be specialists in Japanese-language education dispatched by the Japan Foundation to the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka and The Japan Foundation, New Delhi.

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### Press inquiries:

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Before the start of the training, an opening ceremony will be held at the JICA Sri Lanka Office from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on December 11, 2024. A closing ceremony is planned to be held on March 29, 2025, at the same venue.



\*The Japanese-language coursebook *Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan* is a textbook for foreign people to learn basic Japanese communication skills that are needed for daily life and working in Japan. PDF and audio files of all the lessons are available for download free of charge, and an online course is also provided to facilitate self-study by learners.

Date: December 11, 2024 – March 29, 2025

Venue: JICA Sri Lanka Office (Level 17, PARKLAND, 33 Park St, Colombo 00200, Sri Lanka)

Organizers: The Japan Foundation (JF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Cooperation: Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE)



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