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# **DIGITAL ECONOMY: AI TOOLS, GOVERNANCE, AND POLICY**

**24 TO 28 AUGUST 2026**

Sponsored by the

**SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

and the

**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY**

under the

**JAPAN-SINGAPORE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY**

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## **Singapore Cooperation Programme**

Singapore has provided technical assistance to other developing countries since the 1960s. As a country whose only resource is its people, Singapore believes that human resource development is vital for economic and social progress. Singapore itself has benefited from training provided by other countries and international organisations.

In 1992, the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) was established to bring together under one framework the various technical assistance programmes offered by Singapore. Through the SCP, the range and number of training programmes were increased to share Singapore's development experience with other developing countries.

To date, more than 160,000 officials from over 180 countries, territories and intergovernmental organisations have participated in our courses and study visits. The SCP is managed by the Development Partnership Directorate of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **Japan International Cooperation Agency**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), one of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) implementing bodies, has been extending technical cooperation in human resource development to facilitate the autonomous, sustainable development of developing countries since its establishment in 1974. From 2008, JICA was further strengthened to incorporate all activities of Japan's Official Development including concessional ODA loans and grant aid in an effective and efficient manner.

JICA will enhance the impact of assistance through

- (a) A More Strategic Framework to achieve medium-to-long term development goals of developing countries
- (b) More Predictable Aid as operational "rolling" plans will be utilised in policy dialogue with developing countries
- (c) Speedier Project Formulation through "Preparatory Survey" to ensure flexibility and speed at the project preparation stage
- (d) Assistance Tailored to Real Needs: Synergy of Aid Schemes to offer assistance that most effectively addresses the needs of developing countries.

## Japan - Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21)

As countries whose prime resources are their people, Singapore and Japan believe that human resource development is important for economic and social progress. With this mutual understanding, Singapore and Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 1994 to train participants from developing countries by sharing each country's expertise and experience from their economic development under the Japan - Singapore Partnership Programme (JSPP).

The Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21) was established through a Memorandum of Discussion (MOD) signed in May 1997, to signify a widening of the scope of technical cooperation between Singapore and Japan. Since then, the MOD has been renewed three times, most recently in December 2018.

With a view to enhancing ASEAN integration and sharing their respective areas of expertise, both governments have identified, as priority areas, training and capacity building programmes for third countries. These focus on (a) security and peace, (b) addressing vulnerability, (c) private sector development, (d) connectivity, and (e) smart initiatives.

Since 1994, Singapore and Japan have implemented more than 400 training courses for more than 7,500 participants in diverse fields such as public governance, trade promotion, climate change and environment, community policing, disaster management, maritime navigation, tourism, and urban planning.

## Course Objectives

This course is conducted under the auspices of the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21). The course will explore the opportunities and challenges arising from artificial intelligence (AI) and big data in the digital economy. It aims to equip government officials to design AI and data governance frameworks that protect privacy and intellectual property, while maximising economic benefits.

## Synopsis

Topics to be covered include:

- Fintech developments and regulatory issues
- Trends and challenges in AI and data governance within the digital economy
- Cross-border data transfer tools
- Intellectual Property (IP) rights in the digital economy
- Singapore's and Japan's approaches to AI and data governance

## Methodology

This course will be delivered for up to **30 participants**. It will include lectures, group discussions, site visits, country presentations and Q&A sessions.

Participants should bring along their own internet-enabled learning devices such as laptops or tablets (mobile phones are not recommended) for this course.

## Country Presentation

Each represented country is expected to do a short country presentation. The topic(s) will be provided prior to commencement of the course.

## Course Duration and Venue

The course will be conducted daily from **24 to 28 August 2026** in-person in Tokyo, Japan.

## Application Information

Applicants should be:

- Mid- to senior-level government officials involved in developing the digital economy in their country;
- Nominated by their respective Governments;
- Proficient in written and spoken English; and
- In good health.

In addition, as stipulated by the Government of Japan:

If your organisation and/or your status is related to the Military, you are required to send an email to [1rtd2@jica.go.jp](mailto:1rtd2@jica.go.jp) with your name, country, organisation, the course name, and choose one option from below that best describes your relationship with the Military:

- a) the Military, an active military personnel or military personnel listed in the muster roll/military register;
- b) an organisation affiliated with the Military, or a personnel who does not belong to the military at present but is listed in the muster roll/military register;
- c) the Department or the Ministry of Defense, and organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Defense, or staff of the Ministry of Defense;
- d) a civilian organisation but with military personnel or a military division within the organization; or
- e) an organisation which will be affiliated with or under the control of the Military in times of emergency as specified clearly in its organic law/law of establishment.

Qualifications of applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organisations and/or who are enlisted in the military will be examined by the Government of Japan on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan, taking into consideration their duties, positions in the organisation, and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner.

## Terms of Award

The course is sponsored by the Governments of Japan and Singapore under the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Under this programme arrangement, the Governments of Japan and Singapore will bear the following expenses for successful applicants, thereafter known as “participants”, during their training in Japan.

These expenses include:

- Course fees;
- An Economy Class round-trip air ticket between the respective international airports designated by **Singapore**;
- Visa application fees for entry into Japan [Note: participants are responsible for their own transit visas (if any)];
- Accommodation for the entire duration of the course at JICA Tokyo International Center (TIC). It is a dormitory-typed facility exclusive for JICA training participants, single room with limited amenities. Please refer to the [Facility Guide](#). Complimentary breakfast is provided in the accommodation from the first day of the course to one day after the course;
- Per diem of 1,100JPY for lunch and dinner and 1,700JPY for miscellaneous expenses from the first day to the last day of the course. A proportionate reduction in the per diem will be made if the participant is unable to attend the full duration of the course;
- Transportation between airport and TIC, between TIC and training venue (if any); and
- Basic insurance coverage (Group Hospitalisation and Surgical; Group Personal Accident) for participants during their stay in Japan, in accordance with the policy of a local insurance company. JICA medical card will be provided.

### Note:

- Participants are to bear their personal expenses that might be incurred prior to receiving the per diem; and
- As the basic insurance coverage does not cover any pre-existing conditions/illnesses and/or any outpatient medical/dental treatment, participants are strongly advised to purchase comprehensive travel insurance which includes adequate coverage of COVID-19 related expenses and medical evacuation in the event of any unexpected emergencies.

## Regulations

Participants are required to comply with the following:

- For entry into Japan, participants are required to adhere to the latest travel and health requirements/advisories as indicated at [Japan Travel Planning | Travel Japan \(Japan National Tourism Organization\)](#) ;
- Strictly observe the course schedule and attend all training sessions. Participants will receive a JSPP21 certificate of completion only upon **attaining full attendance of the course**. Any leave of absence must be substantiated with medical certificates or compelling reasons. Failure to attain full attendance will affect the eligibility for future SCP participation; and
- Carry out instructions and abide by conditions as may be stipulated by the nominating authority or Government and the Governments of Japan and Singapore, and its appointed trainer, with respect to the course.

- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore** will inform all applicants of the outcome of their applications. The NFP will also be informed directly.

## Follow Us at:

- SCP Website: [www.scp.gov.sg](http://www.scp.gov.sg)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SCPFriends](https://www.facebook.com/SCPFriends)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/SCPFriends](https://www.instagram.com/SCPFriends)

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## Application Procedure

(Closing date for nomination: **25 May 2026**)

The Government of Singapore and JICA are pleased to invite the respective National Focal Point for Technical Assistance (NFP) to nominate **two (2)** suitable applicant(s).

Selection of candidates will be based on merit. Should there be more applicants than training places, the Government of Singapore seeks the understanding of the respective NFP in the event that its nominee(s) is not selected.

All nominees are to submit their applications online at <https://go.gov.sg/deai26> by **Monday, 25 May 2026**. NFPs are also required to endorse nominees via email links. Instructions and FAQs for Applicants and NFPs can be found at the links below:

- Applicants: <https://go.gov.sg/start-guide>
- NFPs: <https://go.gov.sg/start-nfp>

### Note:

- Participants will receive a JSPP21 certificate of completion upon completion of the course;
- Please refrain from making telephone and email inquiries on the status of your application your application is being processed; and