

SOUTH AFRICA (NRF) JAPAN STI Programmes

**SA-Japan (JSPS & AJ-CORE) & SATREPS Funding Calls 2023 Information Session
Stellenbosch University**

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Background: South Africa/Japan STI Cooperation (NRF, JSPS, JST)

- 28 August 2003, Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) signed an agreement of cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation (STI).
- National Research Foundation (NRF) as the implementing agency of the Department of Science & Innovation (DSI -then DST) signed the following MoUs:
 - 2005 with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (**JSPS**)
 - 2009 with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (**JST**)
- Nature of the programme between JST and NRF changed in 2019 → Africa-Japan Collaborative Research (**AJ-CORE**).

SA-Japan STI Programmes (NRF-JSPS-JST)

- 19 joint calls have since been launched with JSPS
- 6 joint calls have since been launched with JST

SA/Japan (JSPS)

Aims of the programme:

- contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields;
- provide an opportunity for young researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- support the advancement of basic research; and
- contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

AJ-CORE

Aims of the programme:

- build and connect knowledge to increase the impact of research;
- explore new development paths;
- enhance human capacity development in Science, Technology and Innovation;
- find new ways to accelerate transitions to sustainable development; and
- contribute to SDGs.

Bring partners in society to co-develop the knowledge needed to support decision-makers & societal change at all scales & in diverse contexts, by focusing on the research area contributing to resolving common problems in Africa.

SA/Japan (JSPS) Programme

Areas of cooperation

Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas prioritised by NRF/JSPS:

- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences.

Funding for the joint call:

A maximum of four (4) joint projects will be supported for a period of two years (2024-2025).

Max. 900 000K (R450K per annum)

2-year cycle.

SA/Japan (JSPS) Programme (Cont.)

Funding modalities

- Mobility: The exchange visits of researchers, postdocs, and doctoral students including support for research fieldwork.
- Small equipment and consumables.
- Workshops, seminars or networking events: holding meetings alternately in South Africa and Japan.

The following may NOT be funded from the funds allocation:

Consultant's fees

Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)

Large equipment

Institutional overheads

Project management fees

Salaries and temporary staff fees.

Sending side responsible for financing international travel, visas, & medical insurance. Receiving party responsible for financing the accommodation & subsistence of their international partners.

SA/Japan (JSPS) Programme (Cont.)

Eligibility criteria

- Two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Japan.
- Researchers residing in South Africa & affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology, or science council.
- SA applicant must be in possession of a PhD.
- **Mandatory** for applicants in historically advantaged institutions (HAIs) to co-opt a Co-PI from a historically disadvantaged institution (HDI). Excludes science councils, NRF facilities & new universities (i.e. Sol Plaatje and Mpumalanga).
- HDI Co-PI must be have a PhD & their role clearly defined in the project.

Eight HDIs:

University of Limpopo (UL), University of Fort Hare (UFH), University of Venda (Univen), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of Zululand (UniZulu), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) & Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU).

SA/Japan (JSPS) Programme (Cont.)

Criteria for assessing joint applications

Conducted by recognised national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received;

- Scientific quality of the joint research project including the competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved especially in supervising postgraduate students.
- Alignment with national priorities in each country.
- Feasibility of continuing the partnership beyond the 2-year funding period of this programme.
- Human Capacity Development.

Emphasis placed on the training of students & young researchers through research, transfer of knowledge & know-how aimed at socio-economic development. Integration of young researchers and students & the exchange of postgraduate students, are encouraged.

SA/Japan (JSPS) Programme (Cont.)

Information to note

Important dates:

- Applicant closing date – **22 September 2023**, 23:59 PM (SAST)
- Designated Authority (DA) closing date – **29 September 2023**, 23:59 PM (SAST)

Application procedure:

- SA applications to be submitted to <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>
- Japan applications – Call framework sent to DAs.

For programme content-related queries

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Introducing AJ-CORE



Long Term Africa-Japan Research and Innovation Partnership

- Partnership between the NRF and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).
- Aims to support joint research & innovation projects in designated fields of science between researchers from Japan, South Africa and the **17 African countries** whose ministries and granting councils are a participating member in the **Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI)**.

AJ-CORE Programme

Focus area of cooperation: **Environmental Science**

Through supporting research and innovation projects in environmental science, the partnership aims to contribute to SDGs 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.



AJ-CORE Programme

Funding modalities

For a consortium to be eligible, the application must consist of at least;

- One researcher in SA
- One researcher in Japan
- One researcher in an **SGCI** African country

African countries participating in the **SGCI** - Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- SA & Japanese researchers must clearly indicate the benefit of co-opting a 3rd/4th/5th African partner & the research activities that will be carried out in the that African partner country.
- The researchers should also indicate the type of contribution (in kind / otherwise).

AJ-CORE Programme (Cont.)

What's next

4th call is scheduled for **Feb/March 2024** for research activities commencing in 2025-2027.

Current countries who have committed funds to the 4th call AJ-CORE

- **South Africa, Japan, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire**

Information on eligibility (esp. for African partner countries) will be found on the Call Framework.

Enkosi, Thank you, Re a leboga, Siyabonga, Dankie

