General Information

Invitation Program to Japan:

- Emergency Medical Teams Development-

Period in Japan:

From 9 December to 19 December 202 6

For

Information Collection and Assessment Survey on Strengthening the Disaster Medical System in Sri Lanka

This information pertains to the invitation of key stakeholders from Sri Lanka to Japan, which will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan, based on the bilateral agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Sri Lanka.

1. Background

Sri Lanka has repeatedly experienced natural disasters, including Cyclonic Storm Ditwah in 2025, the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, floods, and landslides. Strengthening the capacity for rapid and effective medical response during major disasters has therefore become an important national priority. In recent years, disaster risks have increased due in part to the effects of climate change, creating a growing need to strengthen the overall disaster health management system, including the provision of emergency medical care to affected populations, the continuity of health services, and coordination among relevant stakeholders.

The Government of Sri Lanka has undertaken various initiatives to enhance its disaster response capacity. Further improvements are expected in areas such as medical command and coordination during emergencies, mass casualty management, disaster preparedness and business continuity in hospitals, the deployment and operation of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) and inter-agency coordination. Continued efforts are also required to strengthen the development of disaster health professionals and to establish systems that can effectively transition from routine operations to emergency response.

Against this background, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a survey on the disaster health management system in Sri Lanka from October 2026 to February 2027. The survey aims to assess the current status of disaster health management in Sri Lanka and to identify potential directions for future development through consultations and exchanges with relevant stakeholders. As part of this initiative, representatives from relevant government institutions, healthcare facilities, and other organisations in Sri Lanka will be invited to Japan to participate in site visits, institutional exchanges, and discussions designed to enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster health management system and related practices.

Japan has progressively strengthened its disaster health management system since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. Drawing on lessons learned from subsequent disasters, including the Great East Japan Earthquake and numerous flood and storm events, Japan has continuously developed and refined systems and operational arrangements such as the Disaste

r Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), disaster base hospitals, wide-area medical transportatio n, and disaster health coordination mechanisms. These experiences and lessons learned are expected to provide useful reference points for further strengthening disaster health manage ment in Sri Lanka.

2. General Objective

To enhance participants' understanding of Japan's disaster health management system, inclu ding its policies, institutional arrangements, and operational practices, through visits to releva nt organisations, site observations, and exchanges with key stakeholders. Drawing on the exp eriences and expertise of Japanese counterparts, the programme will also support considerati on of potential approaches for further strengthening the disaster health management system in Sri Lanka.

3. Specific Objective

(1) EMT System and Operations

To understand Japan's disaster health management policies, institutional arrangements, a nd EMT operations, including the activities and training systems of the DMAT and the Jap an Disaster Relief (JDR) medical team. The programme will also examine the institutional foundations supporting EMT deployment and management including coordination mecha nisms, roles and responsibilities, financing arrangements, personnel compensation, and t he roles of responsible authorities, and discuss sustainable EMT management arrangem ents in Sri Lanka.

(2) Disaster Response Hospitals and Medical Logistics

To understand Japan's disaster base hospitals, medical logistics systems, and community -based disaster health service delivery arrangements. Participants will learn about mecha nisms for maintaining hospital functionality during disasters, ensuring the availability and distribution of medicines and medical supplies, and coordinating among key stakeholder s, and explore how these experiences can contribute to strengthening disaster health ma nagement system in Sri Lanka.

(3) Disaster Health Information Management

To understand disaster health information systems and information management approa ches, including the Emergency Medical Information System (EMIS), the Japan - Surveilla nce in Post Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (J-SPEED) and the JDR Medical Operati on Support System (JDR-MOS). Participants will examine the objectives and functions of these systems and share knowledge and experiences oninformation collection, sharing, a

nd utilisation during disasters.

(4) **Local-Level Disaster Health Governance**

To understand disaster health management arrangements at the local government level i n Japan, including municipality-led disaster response systems and coordination mechanis ms among local governments, health facilities, and community stakeholders. Participants will exchenge knowledge on disaster health governance that enables timely decision-mak ing and effective response according to local circumstances.

(5) **Knowledge Exchange and Future Coopeation**

To exchange experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in disaster health managemen t between Sri Lankan and Japanese stakeholders. The programme will explore potential a pplications and improvement measures for strengthening disaster response hospitals and disaster health management system in Sri Lanka, while fostering a foundation for continu ed knowledge-sharing and future cooperation.

(6) **Action Planning and EMT Institutionalisation**

To build on the findings of the invitation programme and refine the draft action plan discu ssed at the seminar scheduled for November 2026. The programme will also identify key elements and issues for developing Terms of Reference (ToR) and Standard Operating Pr ocedures (SOPs) to support the institutionalisation and sustainable operation of EMTs in Sri Lanka, and clarify the direction of future initiatives.

4. Expected Outcomes

(1) Participants gain an enhanced understanding of Japan's disaster health management sys tem and its key components, including EMTs, disaster response hospitals, information m anagement systems, medical logistics, and the roles of local governments.

(2) Drawing on Japan's experiences and practices, participants acquire knowledge and practi cal insights to support strengthening of EMTs and disaster response hospitals in Sri Lank a.

(3) Building on the knowledge and lessons gained through the invitation programme, discuss ions on the draft action plan are advanced and refined, and key issues for further conside ration and future directions are identified

5. Programme Overview

(1) Programme Period:

9-19 December 2026

(2) Locations:

Tokyo, Miyagi Prefecture, and surrounding areas

(3) Language:

English and Japanese (Interpretation: English-Japanese)

(4) Number of Participants:

12

6. Programme Schedule

(Note: The programme schedule is subject to change.)

Date	Time	Organisation／Activity （Tentative）	Location
9 Dec (Wed)		Travel to Japan	
10 Dec (Thu)		JDR Induction Training	Tokyo
11 Dec (Fri)	AM PM	JDR Inductaion Training Lecture: JDR Secretariat	Tokyo
12 Dec (Sat)			
13 Dec (Sun)			
14 Dec (Mon)	AM PM	JICA Tokyo Orientation Lecture: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Role of t he Ministry and Responsibilities of Local Governments) Lecture: Kawasaki City Health and Social Welfare Bureau – Community-Based Disaster Health System Lecture: Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Supply Syste ms in Normal Times in Japan	Tokyo Tokyo
12/15 (Tue)	AM PM	Site Visit: Alfresa Saitama Distribution Centre Travel to Sendai **Visit to Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster-Affected Areas** *(Sendai 3.11 Memorial Community Center or Ruins of Sen dai Arahama Elementary School)*	Saitama
12/16 (Wed)	AM PM	Lecture and Simulation Exercise: DMAT Training Program me	Miyagi Miyagi
12/17	AM	Site Visit: Disaster Base Hospital	Miyagi

(Thu)	PM	Lecture and Simulation Exercise: DMAT Training Program me	Miyagi
12/18 (Fri)	AM	Lecture and Simulation Exercise: DMAT Training Program me	Miyagi
	PM	Reflection and Discussion Session Travel to Tokyo	Tokyo
12/19 (Sat)		Departure from Japan	

7. Participant Eligibility

Participants in the invitation programme will be selected from among key personnel of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media and hospitals designated for EMT establishment in Sri Lanka. Priority will be given to the following categories of participants.

(1) Target Participants

- Officials responsible for health sector disaster management and emergency preparedness and response within the Ministry of Health and Mass Media.
- Potential participants who are expected to play a key role in a future Steering Committee or other mechanism for the design and management of the EMT system.
- Hospital directors or deputy directors from hospitals designated for EMT establishment
- Clinicians involved in the development of EMT establishment in hospitals

(2) Mandatory Requirements

- Be a full-time employee of the nominating organisation
- Have at least two years of professional experience related to disaster health management
- Be able to apply the knowledge and experience gained from the programme to institutional development, organisational management, human resource development, and strengthening hospital disaster response capacity within the participant's organisation
- Be able to participate in the entire programme
- Be able to participate in both seminars conducted under this survey (November 2026 and February 2027, Colombo)
- Be in good physical and mental health and able to participate fully in the programme in Japan

  Note: Expenses related to pre-existing medical conditions, pregnancy, and dental treatment are not covered under the medical insurance provided for the programme.Possess sufficient English language proficiency, including speaking, reading, and writin

g skills

- Participants need to own valid passports with more than 6 months of remaining dates until the expiry date.

  Note: JICA will not cover the cost for obtaining a passport even if any of the participants don't own it at the time of the selection.

(3) Preferred Qualifications

- Be expected to continue working in the field of disaster health management following completion of the programme
- JICA strongly recommends that the MOH ensure that nominated participants will continue to contribute to EMT activities for at least two years after completing the invitation program
- Participants are expected to actively engage in all components of the programme with a strong commitment to learning and to applying the knowledge and skills acquired through the training to their future work and EMT activities

(4) Rules and Compliance Requirements

- Comply with all laws and regulations of Japan
- Adhere to the programme schedule throughout the invitation programme
- Family members may not accompany participants during the programme period

8. Financial arrangement

JICA shall cover the associated cost of travel outside Sri Lanka, such as international flight tickets, transportation and accommodation in Japan as per JICA's rules and guidelines. The Sri Lankan government institutions to which the invitation program participants belong shall cover travel expenses within Sri Lanka if necessary.

9. Deadline of application

MOH is responsible to coordinate the nomination process and submit an official nomination letter to the JICA Sri Lanka Office through ERD, with the attachment of application forms of each nominee by **29th October 2026 at 17:00 (Sri Lankan Time)**. Timely nomination is critically important for arranging flights and other logistics; therefore, MOH is kindly requested to complete all the nomination process in time.