Public Offer for Research on Current Status of Climate Change Initiatives in the Gulf Countries and Business Opportunities for Japanese Companies in the Region

October 18, 2024

Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME)

JCCME (Tokyo, Japan) is publicly offering research institutes or other organizations the opportunity to conduct research on Research on Current Status of Climate Change Initiatives in the Gulf Countries and Business Opportunities for Japanese Companies in the Region as follows.

1. Background and Purpose

Amid irretrievably serious challenges posed by global climate changes—such as rising sea levels, heat waves, torrential rains, ecological changes, and loss of biodiversity—some Gulf countries are actively addressing these issues and leading the international efforts: Saudi Arabia, which leads the Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which chaired COP28.

Some GCC countries are striving to reduce carbon dioxide not only by eliminating fossil fuels but also through CO2 absorption. For example, the Saudi Green Initiative supports a project to plant 10 billion trees across the country. In NEOM, the agricultural research and development team is conducting high-level photonic protein synthesis of microalgae on a trial basis to produce synthetic fuel, food, and pharmaceutical products, leveraging abundant sunlight. In the UAE, efforts are being made to contribute to carbon neutrality through rice cropping in desert areas, as well as investments in agriculture in Africa for CO2 absorption.

The primary purpose of the research is to analyze and evaluate how GCC countries have responded to decisions made at COP28, as well as to assess their preparations for COP29, which will be held in Azerbaijan in November this year, and the efforts they plan to make based on the outcomes of COP29 in a report format.

The second purpose is to identify and analyze CO2 reduction projects outside the manufacturing sector to assess potential business collaboration opportunities for Japanese companies particularly in agricultural, clean energy, CO2 mitigation, and other relevant sectors, where Japan has advanced technologies.

2. Research Items

The research must clarify the specific progress of climate change measures in each country, focusing on how the decisions made at COP28 and COP29 are reflected in those measures. Additionally, in the research, potential business collaboration opportunities for Japanese companies must be assessed, citing specific cases in target countries. For more details, please refer to **Appendix 1.**

3. Research Methods

- Interview with representatives from governmental and government-affiliated organizations, and analysis of COP28 and COP29 conference materials
- Onsite research and analysis of accumulated data related to the research
- Assessment of potential business collaboration opportunities for Japanese companies

4. Deliverables

- Report on the current status of efforts for CO2 reduction and absorption
- Evaluation on future initiatives based on the COP29 outcomes
- Proposal of potential business opportunities for Japanese companies

5. Requirements

 Applicants must be a think tank, research institute, or professional firm with expertise in environmental policies.

Essential Skills

- Knowledge of climate change policies and environmental issues in the Gulf region.
- Understanding of current status of advanced Japanese technologies particularly in agricultural, clean energy, CO2 mitigation, and other relevant sectors
- Ability of information gathering at international conferences (COP29) and analysis capability

6. Schedule

Start Date of Offering: October 18, 2024

End Date of Offering: 15:00 (JST) on October 31, 2024

Start Date of Research: November 8, 2024

Deadline for Report Submission: February 28, 2025

7. Application Documents

Please complete and attach the following application documents in free format, except for (5). All documents must be submitted in A4 size.

Application documents may be submitted in Japanese for Japanese companies.

Otherwise, all application documents must be written in English.

- (1) Research Proposal (This document must include the following elements.)
 - Research Plan: Detailed research methods, specified companies and organizations to visit for the research
 - Research Structure: A list of researchers including the general manager with their names, sections and departments, positions, work assignments, and email addresses
 - · Research Schedule
 - · Other elements necessary to complete the research
- (2) Estimation of Total Research Cost and Detailed Breakdown
 - This document must detail personnel costs, travel expenses, onsite expenses, material purchase costs, report preparation fees, management fees, and any other expenses necessary for the research.
- (3) A history of similar research results presented
- (4) Organization Profile: An outline of the organization, including description of expertise, knowledge, and experience relevant to the research
- (5) Every applicant must submit the Declaration of Exclusion of Anti-Social Forces (**Appendix 2**) to confirm that the company or organization does not fall under any anti-social forces or engage in similar acts. This is required for all agreements in Japan under Japanese law.

8. Instructions for applying for the grants and the associated submission deadline

- (1) Application documents must be submitted by one of the following methods.
 - a. Postal mail: Paper format or a CD-ROM containing electronic data
 - b. Email: A ZIP file compressing all application documents created in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and PDF must be attached in an application email. Please sent the email to relevant personnel listed in (3).
- (2) Submission Deadline

The application document must reach JCCME by 15:00 JST on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

(3) If you have any questions or concerns regarding the application, please feel free to contact the personnel below.

Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East

6F, Sumitomo Fudosan Ichibancho Building, 8, Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0082, Japan

Contact: Mr. SUZUKI Yoshiyuki <u>ysuzuki@jccme.or.jp</u>

Mr. YAMAURA Shigekazu <u>yamaura@jccme.or.jp</u>
Ms. AKASHI Seiko <u>akashi@jccme.or.jp</u>

9. Evaluation Criteria

A successful applicant will be selected by general consideration using the following elements.

- Fulfilment and usefulness of proposals
- Appropriateness of proposed costs, including details and purposes
- Expertise and knowledge related to the research theme
- Past experience of similar research
- Language competencies necessary for onsite research in the target countries, along with the ability to create the report
- Compliance system

[Note] The above evaluation will be made based on submitted application documents. Additional inquires or documents may be required, if necessary.

10. Notification of Results

The results of selection will be sent to the successful applicant by email no later than November 5, 2024.

The results will be made public in the JCCME website at

https://www.jccme.or.jp/15/15-00.html

after the completion of necessary procedures.

11. Personal Information

Any personal information in submitted application documents will be used solely for the purpose of the research and will be managed appropriately in accordance with JCCME's Privacy Policy below.

Privacy Policy : https://www.jccme.or.jp/english/privacy.html

12. Other Instructions

- (1) Any application document submitted after the deadline will be considered invalid.
- (2) Any submission from ineligible companies or organizations will be deemed invalid.
- (3) No submitted documents will be returnable.
- (4) No expenses incurred in the creation, preparation, or other actions related to this application will be reimbursed.
- (5) Inquiries regarding the screening and selection process or its results will not be accepted.
- (6) Language and currency in this reserch: Japanese companies must use Japanese and Japanese Yen. Overseas companies must use English and US Dollars.

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Appendix 1

Public Offer for Research on Current Status of Climate Change Initiatives in the Gulf Countries and Business Opportunities for Japanese Companies in the Region Research Guideline

October 18, 2024

Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME)

The research must clarify the specific progress of climate change measures in each country, focusing on how the decisions made at COP28 and COP29 are reflected in those measures. Additionally, in the research, potential business collaboration opportunities for Japanese companies must be assessed, citing specific cases in target countries.

1. Countries in Scope

Six GCC member countries

2. Outline of Climate Change Policies and Evaluation of Their Progress

In this section, the outline of climate change policies in each country (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target, etc.) and the progress of those policies must be evaluated.

Research Items

- Long-term and mid-term greenhouse gas reduction targets of each country
- Renewable energy plan of each country
- Regulations and supports for the transition to clean energy (e.g., subsidies, tax benefits, etc.)
- National and international cooperation framework (e.g., contributions to climate funds, international cooperation programs, etc.)

3. Decisions Made in COP28 and COP29 and Response of Each Country

In this section, responses of each country to the agenda discussed and decisions made at COP28 (e.g. higher GHG reduction targets, technology transfer support, climate finance expansion, etc.), preparations for COP29 by each country, and expected future responses to decisions made at COP29 must be evaluated.

Appendix 1

Research Items

- Specific measures and projects implemented by governments, companies, or NGOs in each country
- Alignment between announcements made at international conferences and actual plans and their implementation in each country

4. Specific Efforts for CO2 Absorption and Reduction

In this section, details of CO2 absorption and reduction measures implemented by each country (e.g., tree planting projects, maintenance of blue carbon ecosystems, introduction of carbon capture technologies, etc.) must be studied.

Research Items

- Current status and progress of specific projects
- Utilization of natural resources (e.g., tree planting, preservation of wetlands, carbon storage in soil leveraging agricultural technologies, etc.)

5. Analysis of Adaptation Measures

In this section, adaptation measures tackling climate change impacts must be analyzed.

Research Items

- Disaster prevention and mitigation measures against rising temperatures and sea levels
- Agricultural technology development and water resource management in arid regions
- Countermeasures to climate change risks in urban planning projects (e.g., introduction of green infrastructure, etc.)

6. Progress of Climate Finance and Fundraising

In this section, the types of fundraising each country has implemented to facilitate climate change countermeasures, and how each country has been involved in the current state of international climate finance must be studied.

Research Items

· Amounts of investments in climate change projects and the flow of funds

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Appendix 1

How each country contributes to international funds and cooperation programs

7. Issues to be addressed in Political Measures and Evaluation of Successful Cases

In this section, successful cases and issues to be addressed in the measures implemented by each country must be evaluated, and the effectiveness of political measures in response to decisions at COP28 and COP29 must be assessed.

Research Items

- Case studies of successful political measures
- Barriers to the implementation of political measures (e.g., legal issues, technical issues, shortage of funds, etc.)

8. Evaluation of Potential Business Collaboration Opportunities between GCC Countries and Japan or Other Nations

In this section, the potential for Japanese companies to collaborate with GCC countries by leveraging their technologies and expertise must be assessed based on the research results mentioned above. In particular, the assessment should focus on the agricultural technologies, renewable energy, CO2 mitigation technologies, and other relevant areas.

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Declaration of Exclusion of Antisocial Forces

_____ (hereinafter referred to as "our organization") hereby declares that it will eliminate antisocial forces from the perspective of corporate social responsibility, compliance and corporate defense.

1. Attitude regarding the exclusion of antisocial forces

Our organization does not have any relationship with antisocial forces such as organized crime groups, organized crime group members, quasi-organized crime group members, companies related to organized crime groups, general meeting of shareholders, socially motivated groups, and special intelligent violence groups (hereinafter referred to as "antisocial forces").

2. Blocking relationships with antisocial forces

In order to cut off all relations with antisocial forces, our entire organization, including the top management, will take a firm stance to cut off all transactions.

3. Rejection of unreasonable demands and legal response

Our organization will strictly reject any unreasonable demands from antisocial forces and will take legal measures from both civil and criminal perspectives.

4. Prohibition of labor contracts and employment contracts

In order to prevent damage caused by antisocial forces, our organization will not conclude employment contracts or any other labor contracts with antisocial forces.

5. Provisions of antisocial force exclusion clause

In order to prevent damage in the event that antisocial forces become our business partners and make unreasonable demands, we will stipulate a clause for the exclusion of antisocial forces in the contracts we conclude, and will terminate the contract in the event that the other party to the contract is found to be an antisocial force after the contract has been concluded.

Date
Organization Name
Signature