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Introduction: Japan Entry Acceleration Program 2026



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The Japan Entry Acceleration Program 2026 (JEAP 2026) is JETRO's initiative to support global companies in regenerative medicine/CGT sectors in accelerating their entry into Japan. With the support of Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine (FIRM) this year, the program has been further strengthened to offer deeper industry connections, enhanced credibility, and more hands-on support—enabling participants to accelerate market entry, build strategic partnerships, and scale their business in one of the world's most advanced markets.

Organized by



JETRO, or the Japan External Trade Organization, is the operational arm of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, driving trade and investment policy between Japan and the world — supporting foreign market entry, attracting inbound investment, and connecting Japanese and global companies and organizations.

Supported by



FIRM, or the Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine, is Japan's central industry body dedicated to ensuring safe and stable access to regenerative medicine — bridging companies, research institutions, and regulators to shape policy and drive commercialization across the sector.

5 Reasons to Accelerate Your Future in Japan

01

Advanced life science market with high unmet medical needs

Japan's universal healthcare system provides a stable market environment and drives strong demand for innovation.



02

Robust manufacturing base

Japan has established high-quality manufacturing capabilities and proven expertise in the commercial production and scale-up of CGTs.



03

High research capability and strong technology seeds

Japan has a world-class research institutions, universities, and companies that generate cutting-edge knowledge and technologies.



04

Supportive government policies

National and local governments offer a range of subsidies, tax incentives, and regulatory support. Japan's flexible and expedited approval pathways enable faster market access while maintaining high safety standards.



05

Gateway to Asia

Japan serves as a strategic entry point to the broader Asian market, offering proximity, market credibility, and alignment with global regulatory practices.



Unlocking Japan's Opportunities through JEAP

JEAP 2026 Program Contains

- Nov. 2026~ ● **1. Workshop & Mentoring (Online)**
- Expert-led workshop and 1-on-1 mentoring on Japan's **market, regulations, reimbursement, R&D and clinical develop environment, business strategy**
- Dec. 2026~ ● **2. Business Networking (Hybrid)**
- We connect you with the right partners across Japan's healthcare ecosystem.
- **KOLs**, hospitals, research institutions.
 - **PMDA** and regulatory experts
 - **BioPharma companies, CDMOs/CROs, investors**
- Feb. 2027 ● **3. Site Vitis & Demo Day in Japan (On-site*)**
- Pitch your solution to **investors** and **potential business partners** in Japan. An excellent opportunity to raise your visibility and build relationships face-to-face.

** JETRO will cover international travel expenses and accommodation.*

*Highlights from JEAP 2025



Highlights of JEAP 2025 – Overview



10 companies selected from approx. 70 applications



100 meetings with Key stakeholders in Japan



Feedbacks from 2025 cohort:
“Great progress in finalizing the development plan for Japan/”
“Our business plan and potential partners have become clear.”



Highlights of JEAP 2025 – Site Visits

Firsthand Insight into Japan's CGT Ecosystem

Engage with leading R&D institutions and KOLs driving Japan's CGT breakthroughs.



Highlights of JEAP 2025 – Demo day

Showcase & Networking

As the grand finale of the program, you will have the opportunity to gain exposure to investors and potential business partners in Japan.

100

participants from
VCs & BioPharma
companies



Program Mentors



Kunihiro Suzuki

Strategic & Financial Expert

Kuni is a leading business figure in Japan's regenerative medicine and cell therapy sectors, with strong expertise in investment and financing.

Founder of the Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine (FIRM), the biggest industry advocacy group in Japan.
Advisor/Board Member for multiple RM/CGT ventures.



Hirohito Katayama

CMC & Manufacturing Expert

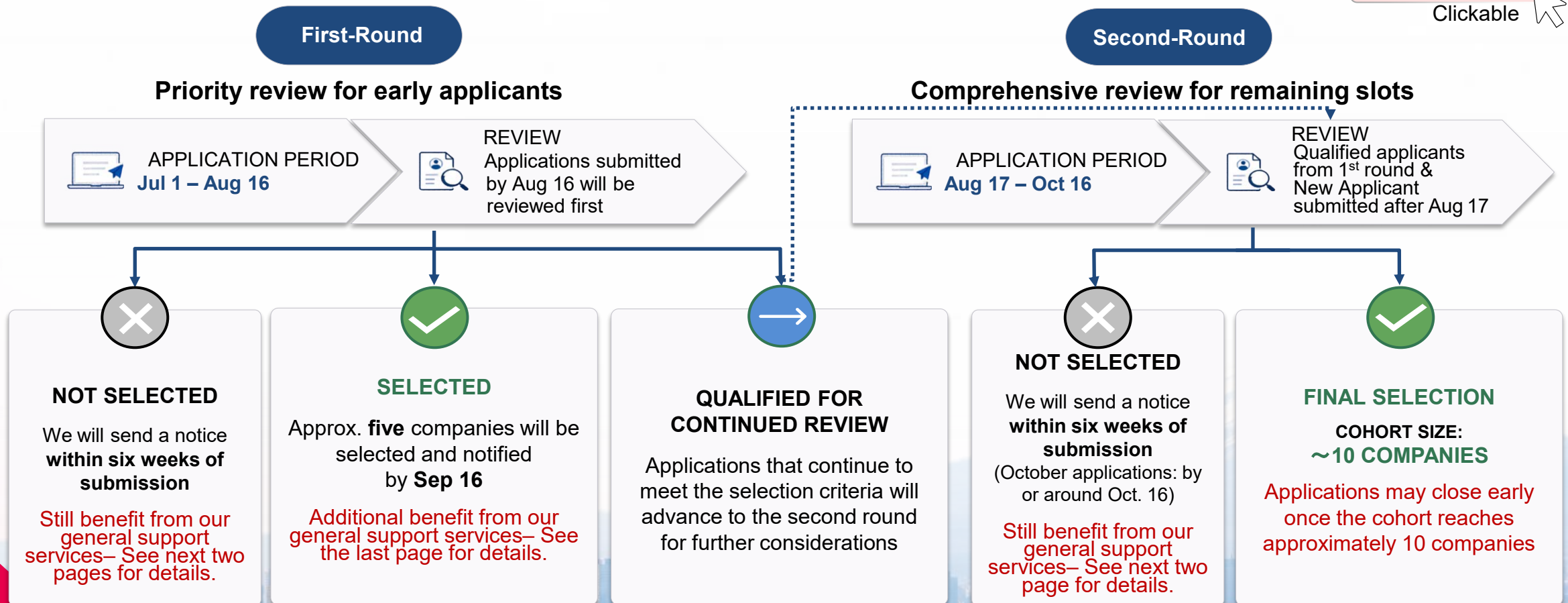
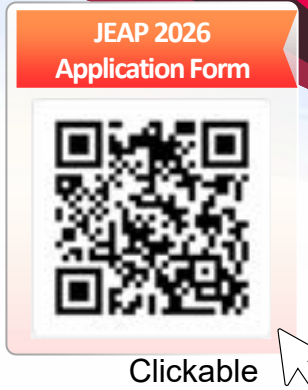
Hirohito brings over 35 years of experience in pharmaceutical development and manufacturing, with deep expertise in CMC across global operations.

Held senior leadership roles at Novartis, Astellas, and Bayer, with CMC expertise spanning global technology transfer, factory management, and CAR-T cell production.

Selection Process

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The selection process consists of two rounds. In the first round, applications submitted by **Aug 16** will be reviewed first, and at least five companies will be selected by **Sep 16**. In the second round, the remaining slots will be filled from applications submitted between **Aug 17 and Oct 16**, together with qualified applicants carried over from the first round. **Application may close early once the cohort reaches approximately 10 companies.**



Beyond the Selection: JETRO Support for All Applicants (1)

As part of JEAP, applicants not selected for the cohort may still be considered for limited-time meetup opportunity with Japanese companies through JETRO's J-Bridge service.

JEAP Special Meetup:

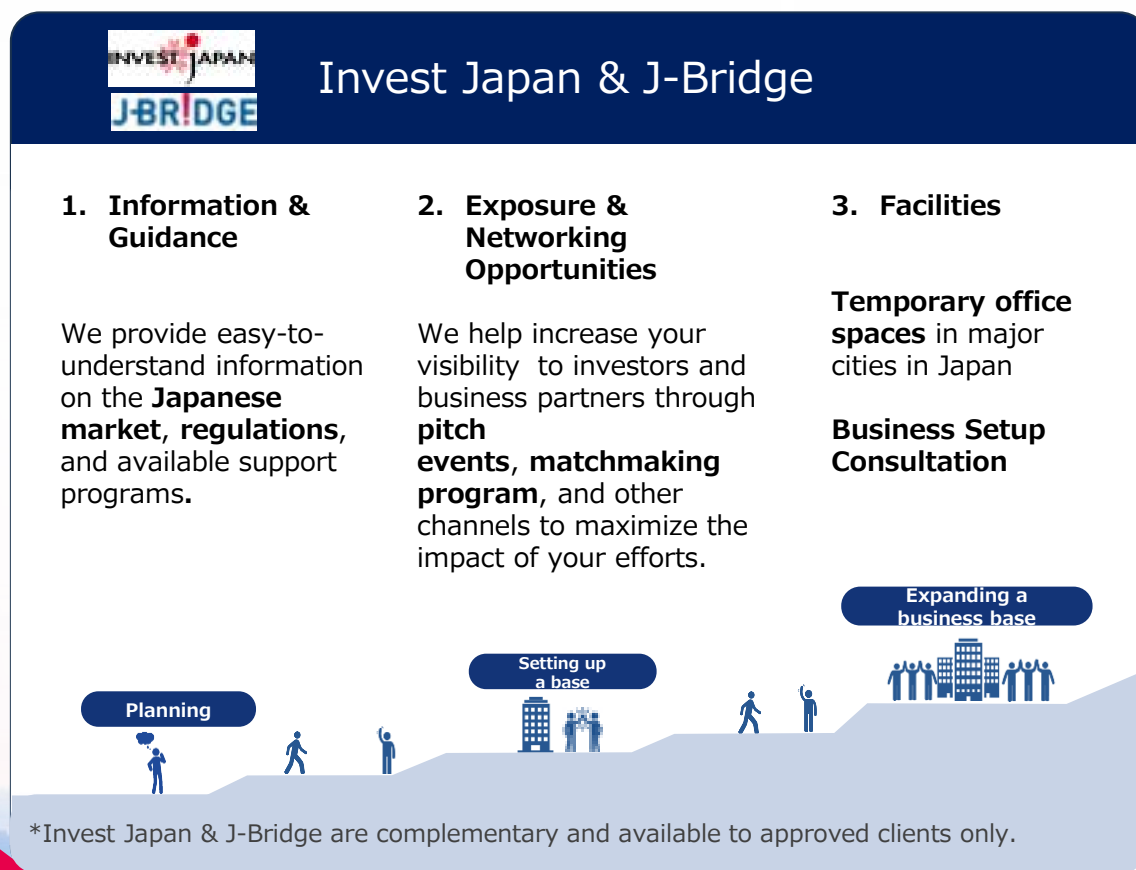
- ✓ Available to applicants not selected for the JEAP cohort.
- ✓ Indicate your interest by checking "Yes" at the beginning of [JEAP 2026 application form](#).
- ✓ If you opt in, JETRO may share your company name, website URL, and brief company overview with Japanese companies in the JETRO network for a limited period.
- ✓ This is a special initiative built on J-Bridge, JETRO's year-round business meetup service.
- ✓ For broader year-round support, please refer to "Beyond the Selection: JETRO Support for All Applicants (2) " for details on Invest Japan and J-Bridge.
- ✓ Meetups are arranged based on mutual interest.

How it works:



Beyond the Selection: JETRO Support for All Applicants (2)

JETRO offers Invest Japan and J-Bridge — year-round general support services that help global life sciences companies enter and grow in Japan, providing market insights, regulatory guidance, partner matching, and more.



Even if not selected for JEAP, applicants may still access JETRO's general support services tailored to their needs.

Companies selected early for JEAP

can access JETRO's support in advance of the program, enabling them to build momentum and accelerate market entry ahead of the full program.

For more details, contact us anytime:
Sumire Saito, Yuki Ishizuna, Miho Kato
E-mail: ive@jetro.go.jp

Invest Japan: <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/>
J-Bridge: <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/j-bridge/>



JEAP 2026 Organized by
Japan External Trade Organization
Contact:
Sumire Saito, Yuki Ishizuna, Miho Kato
E-mail: ive@jetro.go.jp